

NEWS ROUNDUP

Prisoners tunnel way to freedom

A man who escaped from Pentonville prison, north London, by tunnelling through a wall is dangerous and should not be approached, Scotland Yard said last night.

Alien Cessay was being held on remand pending his trial at the Central Criminal Court on what the Metropolitan Police described as "very serious, violent offences".

Cessay, who is black and 6ft 2in tall with short, razored hair, and William Shoemsmith, white and 5ft 8in tall, who was awaiting trial for robbery, escaped on Tuesday night by chipping a hole in the wall of a cell and climbing a perimeter wall. Det Insp Michael Parkes said the pair, both aged 21, were believed to have obtained hammers, chisels and other tools from the prison workshop.

The Home Office has launched an investigation. The escape was noticed at yesterday's routine gaze inspection.

Lost wife Cash gift for rebels

John Cannan, a businessman, appeared before magistrates in Bristol yesterday charged with the murder of Mrs Shirley Banks, the woman who disappeared from her home in October.

Mr Cannan, aged 33, was accused of murdering Mrs Banks, aged 29, a sales co-ordinator, of High Street, Clifton, Bristol, between October 7 and 30. Her body has not been found.

Mr Cannan, of Bridge Road, Leigh Woods, Bristol, was remanded in custody to appear again next Wednesday.

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday presented Liverpool's rate rebels with a cheque for £4,000, just enough to keep their financial troubles at bay over Christmas.

The 47 councillors, who owe £350,000 in surcharges and legal costs from their conflict with the district auditor, have to pay £4,000 a month if they are to avoid bankruptcy.

Mr Eddie Roberts, a union regional official, gave the cheque to Mr Alec Dowdell and Mr Tony Hood, two of the former councillors.

Sisters may return

The family of Zana and Nadia Muhsen said yesterday they had received two telephone calls from the women saying they could be back in Birmingham in 10 to 14 days.

Their brother, Mohammed Muhsen, aged 15, said Zana told him that she and her sister had been moved from the remote mountain village in North Yemen where they have lived for the past seven years.

Zana, aged 22, and Nadia, aged 21, claim that their father sold them into arranged marriages for £1,300 when they left their home in Sparkbrook, Birmingham, to go on what they thought was a holiday. They say they are treated as sex slaves by their husbands, by whom they have several children.

Liverpool TV-am fan freed

Another of the 25 British football supporters charged with manslaughter after the riots in 1985 at the Heysel stadium, David Duncan, aged 24, of Thomas Lane, Liverpool, was released by a Brussels court yesterday.

Of the 25 Liverpool supporters extradited to Belgium 20 are still in custody at Leuven prison. Four were freed earlier.

Their release does not mean they will not face trial but that the state of the investigation does not require their custody. The trial is expected to begin early next year.

Gold hidden in belt

An Italian vintage car dealer was fined £45,000 or six months' imprisonment after pleading guilty at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, west London, yesterday to attempting to evade payment of VAT on gold bullion valued at £101,000 at Heathrow Airport on December 23.

Giorgio Grotteschi, aged 47, of no fixed abode in Britain, arrived at the airport from Geneva wearing 12 bars of gold in a body belt. Customs and Excise officials said. The court was told he was acting as a courier.

First court case over crop spray

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent
The Health and Safety Executive is to bring its first prosecution under the Food and Environment Protection Act, 1985.

Proceedings will be heard at Horsham Magistrates' Court, Humberstone, on January 6 against an aerial crop spraying contractor, Peter Scott Agric, of Thorpe Audlin, West Yorkshire.

It will be alleged that in July a field was sprayed with a pesticide without warning to the owner of a neighbouring crop. If found guilty, the company faces a fine of £2,000.

The alleged incident occurred only five days after the executive enforcing pesticide control regulations.

Only 575 people have registered to be tested for certificates of competency in applying pesticides, which will be required by law from January 1, 1989.

Mr Herman Baarda, chairman of the National Proficiency Tests Council, estimated that 30,000 people would need to be tested.

Mine staff reject pay offer

By Tim Jones
More than 7,000 pit deputies yesterday voted to reject a British Coal pay offer worth between £10 and £12 a week.

Some members of the union, the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shiftworkers, have started an overtime ban in the Midlands. Mr Peter McNestry, their general secretary, declined to suggest what the next move would be.

In the ballot, 7,527 deputies rejected the offer with only 327 in favour. If the union decides on a national overtime ban, the consequences for British Coal could be far reaching as Nacods members must inspect a pit before miners are allowed to work in it.

Delays in this process, particularly at weekends when most safety work is done, could compound the damaging effect of the limited overtime ban being operated by the National Union of Mineworkers.

NUM members are being denied rises of between £4.95 and £6.65, already paid to members of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Scientists identify cause of muscular dystrophy

By Pearce Wright
and Robert Matthews

Scientists have found the precise cause of Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, a fatal inherited muscle-wasting disease with which more than 100 boys a year are born in Britain.

An American research team under Dr Eric Hoffman at the Harvard Medical School has discovered that victims of the disease lack a muscle protein, called dystrophin.

The researchers say "rational therapies for the many boys affected with this fatal disease will hopefully emerge", although the role of dystrophin is still a mystery.

Mr Paul Walker, director of the Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain, said yesterday: "In the 14 years

since I started working with this group, this is the most encouraging statement which I have ever come across from scientists".

Boys with the disease are usually confined to a wheelchair after the age of 12, and life expectancy is at best only the mid-20s.

The identification of the protein is the latest part of an international drive to find the cause of this progressive wasting disease in which the body fails to replace muscle at the rate at which it is destroyed.

Last year, the part of the genetic code in the cells of victims responsible for the disease was identified by Dr Louis Kunkel, of Boston Children's Hospital, Dr Ron Wharton of the Toronto hospital for sick children, and

Dr Kay Davies and colleagues from the John Radcliffe Hospital, in Oxford.

They first located which one of the tens of thousands of genes carried by human beings was at fault in cases of muscular dystrophy.

The British researchers played a role in both that and the latest discovery, by providing detailed "maps" of the genetic sequences of Duchenne victims.

The aim is to treat muscular dystrophy by replacing the faulty gene. Professor Arthur Bulter, research development director of the muscular dystrophy group, says such work is 10 to 15 years away.

Nevertheless, if the scientists can devise an effective way of compensating for the absence of the dystrophin

protein they could establish general principles for treating other inherited human diseases.

Such diseases are caused when either the genetic instructions passed on by parents to their children are already at fault, or when faults occur spontaneously in the fetus.

Those result in faulty manufacture of proteins by the tiny protein-making "factories" inside cells which decode the genetic instructions.

The faulty gene responsible for muscular dystrophy is located on the X chromosome, on which the genetic instructions are written.

Women have two X chromosomes, and men one. A boy given the faulty gene must develop the illness, as there is

no spare X chromosome to rely on.

It has been difficult to devise effective treatments for some of the most severe genetic disorders because scientists cannot find the exact identity of the particular faulty protein.

The breakthrough in muscular dystrophy shows how that can be done by employing the science of molecular biology and genetic engineering.

Once the scientists collaborating with Dr Davies found the defective gene, the American group working with Dr Hoffman started the painstaking job of dissecting the biochemical make-up of the gene.

That makes up the blueprint for dystrophin. Once available, it was used to direct the

hunt among the thousands of different molecules in specimens of muscle tissue for the matching protein.

Less than 0.002 per cent of the tens of thousands of muscle proteins comprise dystrophin, which is why it was overlooked.

Ironically, its discoverers believe it is the largest protein molecule in the body, having a molecular weight more than 10 times that of insulin.

Dr Davies says that unfortunately the sheer size of dystrophin poses difficulties in devising ways for getting a substitute into muscle tissues.

That will be one of the crucial issues when the scientists meet at Cambridge next month to discuss implications of the breakthrough.

Extra pay proposed to keep police in London

By Stewart Tessler, Crime Reporter

Special extra payments for London policemen to stem the flow of experienced officers transferring to other forces or retiring early are being considered.

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that the issue would be discussed during current pay negotiations for the next police pay award in September 1988.

Senior Scotland Yard commanders have for some time been seeking extra money to compensate officers for the dangers and expense of living in London.

Mr Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has called for ways to curb the loss of officers and he

Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

Police in London already receive an extra payment of £1,011 as an allowance for underground living. In addition, they receive a London weighting allowance of £685.

There are also rent allowances, available in all forces, which might give an officer several thousand pounds more.

Despite pay which gives a police constable with two years' service £12,500 a year, London is losing experienced officers as fast as it trains new recruits.

More than 60 per cent of the officers come from outside London and each year hundreds transfer back to forces closer to their birthplaces.

There is also the additional problem of trying to persuade provincial officers to go to London. High fliers from other forces may not be keen to join the Yard because of problems such as housing.

Since January this year the Metropolitan force has lost 1,591 officers through retirement or resignation. In the last financial year to April, 611 officers applied for transfers and so far this year the figure is 432, making it likely that 1987-88 will be a record year for losing officers.

The result is that the largest single age group in the 27,500-member London force is about 23, which means they are still training or on two years' probation after training.

It is not known what extra money may be made available at a time when there is pressure to cut police costs and trim perks.

To complicate matters, earlier this year the Police Federation went to arbitration with the Home Office after an attempt to raise the London allowance by several hundred pounds. The federation learned this week that the arbitrators had found against the police.

Mr Imbert said other regions that may qualify for extra payments could be the West Midlands, Merseyside,

Inquest verdict change

A coroner yesterday changed his verdict after parents objected to suggestions that their son who hanged himself had committed suicide.

Mr Robert Wilson, East Berkshire coroner, had said he intended to record a verdict of suicide on Barry Hardacre, aged 11, found hanged in the toilet at his home in Windsor.

The boy's mother, Mrs Alexis Hardacre, interrupted

the coroner to tell him: "He was very stubborn and very headstrong. I think he was just messing about. He wanted to be a stuntman and was always doing silly things".

The father, Lance Corporal Jim Hardacre, said: "I think it was a prank that went wrong".

The coroner said that he could no longer be sure that the boy intended to take his own life and recorded an open verdict.

Union plea over 'blind eye' on Sunday trading

By John Spicer

The shopworkers' union Usdaw is asking local authorities why they are turning a blind eye to "blatant" law-breaking by taking no action against stores which open on Sunday.

The problem has been highlighted after many Woolworth stores traded openly last Sunday with no action being taken by the authorities, particularly in London. The union has drawn the attention of a

number of authorities to what officials see as a widespread but, they say, nothing is being done.

Mr John Fahy, one of Usdaw's London area organisers, said yesterday: "Most Woolworth stores were open in London last Sunday - about 20 in the capital alone - and we have lodged complaints. But at least one London authority, the borough of Ealing, has said it is not going to waste officials' time by pursuing the matter."

"We know that Sunday trading laws are a nuisance but it seems incredible that the Thatcher Government is willing to allow all this to go on."

"Here we have a Government making pious statements about unions and their officials acting within the law, while allowing local authorities to turn a blind eye to wholesale illegal trading."

Mr Fahy said companies were quite happy to risk prosecution and the possibility

of a maximum fine of £1,000 because takings more than covered the amount.

The complaints to local authorities are part of Usdaw's campaign against what the union sees as a bad deal for shopworkers over Christmas and New Year. The union says that many employers are not adequately rewarding staff who have had to work long hours in the run up to Christmas, and then extra hours in preparation for the sales.

Last night Woolworth said: "About a quarter of Woolworth's 800 stores opened last Sunday. But we did so only in areas where there was other commercial support; in other words, where other shops were also open. No member of staff was forced to work. It was all done on a voluntary basis and those who did work were compensated."

Woolworth would not comment on the union allegations that opening on Sunday in England was illegal.



Left, Mr McMichael making a regular check of his car last month and right, the aftermath of the explosion in which he died

Backlash feared after bombing

By John Cooney

Retaliation by "loyalist" groups against senior Sinn Féin republicans is feared after Tuesday's murder by the Provisional IRA of Mr John McMichael, the second in command of the Ulster Defence Association.

In a statement issued through the republican centre in Belfast the IRA justified the killing on the grounds that Mr McMichael was a "paramilitary combatant and leader" rather than a civilian.

However, Mr Andrew Tyrer, chairman of the UDA, angrily dismissed the charge that Mr McMichael was the commander of the illegal Ulster-Freedom Fighters.

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Asked about fears of retaliation by "loyalist"

indication that there might be a strong Loyalist backlash against the IRA over the Christmas period.

However, a plea for calm was made by Mr McMichael's son, Gary, aged 18, who said that he did not want to see any retaliatory attacks on innocent Catholics.

Mr McMichael, who was 39, will be buried on Boxing Day in Lisburn, Co Antrim. He was well-known for his close attention to security and was reported to have changed his car every fortnight.

The UDA yesterday appealed to the public for information which would help them to arrest the murderers who planted a bomb under Mr

McMichael's car outside his home in Lisburn.

The deliberate selection of Mr McMichael for assassination is viewed by the security forces as a further sinister development in IRA strategy. It exposes other prominent figures previously considered to be safe from attack.

Mr McMichael's advocacy of a power sharing administration in Ulster involving Protestant and Catholics was praised by churchmen and politicians.

Both Mr Tyrer and Mr McMichael exercise considerable influence in preventing retaliation after the Enniskillen poppy day bomb which killed 11 people.

Labour criticizes YTS plan

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Proposals to create 7,000 Youth Training Scheme jobs in the National Health Service were criticized by the Labour Party yesterday. The Opposition believes confidence in the service will be undermined if trainees attend patients.

The YTS scheme, which could involve 16-year-olds helping to care for patients, was branded as an attempt to introduce cheap labour to the service.

Ministers are actively considering the proposal, which has been supported by Price Waterhouse, the management consultants, in a feasibility study.

Mr Robin Cook, the shadow Cabinet health spokesman, said there was no objection to the health service contributing to YTS but there was opposition to the Government using the scheme as a recruitment pool for the nursing profession.

He said confidence in the

health service would be undermined if young trainees attended patients without adequate supervision.

"I cannot imagine anything more likely to dent confidence in the NHS than patients discovering that they are being attended to by YTS trainees," Mr Cook said.

Mr Doug Hoyte, Labour MP for Warrington North, condemned the proposal as unfair to both patients and nursing staff. Nurses would have to look after patients and supervise trainees as well. He said Mr John Moore, the Secretary of State for Social Services, ought to put the report in the waste paper basket, where it belongs.

The report suggests that up to 7,000 trainees could work in the health service, but only half would complete the scheme and fewer - between 700 to 2,000 - would go into professional nurse training. It also suggests that the idea of YTS involvement in the

health service could be extended to social work.

It says that the trainees, funded by the Manpower Services Commission, would be superfluous but would be involved in patient care. While most trainees would rotate between long-stay care areas, local hospitals, day hospitals and out-patient departments doing both administrative and care work, the report says some might work in acute medicine, surgical wards and in theatres.

Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, called for an urgent meeting with Mr Moore yesterday to discuss the health service's financial situation.

"We are particularly concerned that the ability of the service to deliver comprehensive care for all is being seriously hampered by false economies, arbitrary efficiency savings and the failure to match hospital needs and resources," he said.

Appeal for more night flights

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

Government proposals to allow more night flights at Gatwick do not go far enough, according to BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority.

In a submission to the Department of Transport yesterday BAA called for far more encouragement to quieter aircraft.

The BAA is seeking an overall increase in night flights with a reduction in the number of older and noisier jets offset by a big increase in the quieter ones.

Last month Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Transport, proposed a gradual increase in the number of Gatwick night flights from 4,300 a year in 1987 to 5,190 by 1992.

That was not enough to enable a continuing improvement in the general noise climate to be achieved, the BAA says.

It considers that objective can be met by allowing greater flexibility to airlines and hence greater use of the runways at Heathrow and Gatwick.

Its views are bound to be challenged by local environmental groups who are challenging any extra flights at night.

Writing The Times overseas:
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B 74; Canada 82; Denmark D 1200; France 80; Germany 80; Greece 80; Italy 80; Japan 80; Korea 80; Luxembourg 80; Netherlands 80; Norway 80; Portugal 80; Spain 80; Sweden 80; Switzerland 80; Taiwan 80; Thailand 80; United Kingdom 80; USA 80; Yugoslavia 80.



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Black market in animal steroids

Farmers who buy illegal drugs are aiding the IRA

By Howard Foster and John Goodbody

A thriving trade in smuggling growth-promoting steroids for farm animals in Britain has been uncovered in an investigation by *The Times*, eight days before a ban on those drugs becomes law throughout the EEC.

The smuggling network, which involves drugs stolen by the IRA to raise money on the black market for terrorist purposes, began when Britain and the Republic of Ireland imposed their own ban on the use of animal steroids at the beginning of 1987. It has led to fears that Britain may now be open to the same widespread infiltration of dangerous "steroid cocktails" which are in use on a massive, illegal scale in other EEC countries.

British farmers used steroid implants to fatten their cattle for more than 15 years before they were banned, after fears were raised by consumer groups that potentially dangerous substances were entering the human food chain.

Mr Michael Leathes, secretary-general of Fedesa, an animal health association funded by the European animal drug manufacturers, said: "All the evidence we have shows that when you allow the hormones we regard as safe to be used for the fattening of beef cattle, there is no black market."

"But when you ban them, inevitably, there is. Farmers in Britain are predominantly honest people but they have mouths to feed like everybody else. The ban will result in the loss of about 10 per cent extra bulk in an animal that a farmer would expect from using previously legitimate implant steroids - that effectively kills his profit."

Mr Gordon Appelbe, head

of the investigation branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, said yesterday: "Some of the stuff we have found in this country has no label on it at all. Some has been made by European companies and some is even counterfeit."

He said that shortly before the Irish Republic introduced its ban, the IRA staged a number of robberies at agricultural premises, seizing animal steroids. The IRA was clearly mindful of a future black market with accompanying high profits for the racketeers.

Some of those products could have been smuggled

into Britain for use by unscrupulous farmers, who are indirectly helping to fund Irish terrorist acts.

Mr Alan Davidson, deputy head of the pharmaceutical society's law department, said he knew of a Scottish farmer who travelled from Donegal with boxes of anabolic steroids placed underneath the floor boards of a lorry containing small herds of bullocks. He said: "Holland is also within easy striking distance of the East Anglian fens. We are sure there is an influx of steroids there, using light aircraft and unauthorized airstrips."

Mr Appelbe said: "The smuggled steroids arriving in Britain from Holland are a mixture of genuine manufacturers' products and steroids purporting to come from Holland. However, there is now evidence of home-made ani-

mal steroids being produced here. I am aware from my colleagues in Europe of the 'cocktail steroids'. I would not rule out the possibility that they are finding their way into this country, although I have yet to see them."

In Belgium, unofficial estimates put the total number of beef cattle given illegal steroid injections as 90 per cent of those slaughtered for food. To beat the long-standing ban on steroids there, a "mafia-like" network of manufacturers, dealers, veterinary surgeons and cattle producers combine in a multi-million pound trade to inject cattle with chemicals made up in unsterile conditions which could cause harm to humans eating their meat. One vet under investigation in Belgium was said to have made £300,000 from the illicit trade.

The unscrupulous gangs import chemicals reported to originate in eastern Europe, including diethylstilbestrol (DES), a steroid banned almost world-wide because of fears that it could cause cancer in humans.

"There are dangers when long-acting materials are injected into an animal, particularly when you do not know what chemicals have been used", Professor Eric Laming, of the Nottingham University animal physiology department, said.

His committee of 22, appointed by the EEC, found five main hormone groups were safe when properly administered but his findings were over-ridden by the EEC for political reasons and a blanket ban was imposed.

Fedesa is taking legal action to reverse the ban.

Mr Edward McMillan-Scott, the Euro MP for North Yorkshire, told *The Times* there was now "a substantial crackdown" on administering the law. Meat was to be tested regularly at authorized stations, he said.

Anyone found to have given hormone drugs to animals is liable to a £2,000 fine for the first offence and an unlimited fine for subsequent offences. In addition, no animal belonging to the farmer at the time of the offence may be sold and other animals in the region are examined.

The National Farmers' Union said yesterday: "Initially, we did not want a ban

because of the lack of scientific evidence that there was any harm to humans or animals. But now we do not want to be any different from the other members of the EEC because our trade would be hampered."

"We are worried about the possibility that there would be smuggling of drugs, although we have no evidence of this so far. The worry is that although the hormone products which used to be sold legally were safe, cocktails that might be made up could be harmful to animals and humans."

● The Sports Council yesterday called for the "strongest possible action" to stop British sportsmen using anabolic steroids intended for animals. Moves by ministers and MPs to have anabolic steroids included in the Misuse of Drugs Act "must be supported", the council said.

Three orphaned gorillas with Mrs Lisa Sangha, females aged three and two, were rescued in the Congo after their family groups were murdered for meat and souvenirs. With another male, they will form a fourth family at the zoo park, which has 31 gorillas, the world's largest captive colony. However, hurricane damage has forced the closure of the park until next Easter.

Gorillas joining a happy breed



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Debts led to top swimmer's suicide

A former British champion swimmer agreed a suicide pact with her mother when their fashion business ran into problems, an inquest was told yesterday.

Miss Pat Symons, aged 52, and her mother took overdoses of pain killers and stabbed themselves repeatedly because they were deeply in debt.

Miss Symons eventually suffocated herself with a polythene bag. However, her mother, Mrs Norma Symons, aged 77, was found alive when police arrived more than two hours later.

They had been alerted by a letter posted by Miss Symons to a distant relative, Mr Derek Oak, blaming their suicide decision on business difficulties.

The hearing at Gateshead was told that trade at the clothes shop they ran in Whickham, Tyne and Wear, had been ruined by the open-

ing of the Gateshead Metro Centre.

Mrs Symons later told police: "Business was so bad that some days we did not even sell a pair of tights. If we died our home could be sold and pay off the costs."

She said she and her daughter had started by drinking cocktails of pills and brandy at their home in Dockendale Lane, Whickham, in the early hours of the morning last October 9. Before parting to go to their rooms Mrs Symons asked for a knife and stabbed herself repeatedly.

Her daughter also stabbed herself and went to bed. However, when she failed to die, she got up, changed her bloodstained nightdress and put the bag over her head.

The coroner, Mr William Duffy, recorded a verdict of suicide. He said: "It is clear both persons concerned wished to end their lives over the business difficulties."

Telecom campaign to stamp out vandalism Drive on call boxes brings 40 arrests

By Tony Dawe

A blitz on telephone vandals by British Telecom investigators and the police has resulted in more than 40 arrests.

People have been charged with offences from theft and criminal damage to defacing property in the biggest operation of its kind. Telecom believes it has broken a number of gangs which were systematically robbing call boxes in Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds by using power tools.

Telecom has switched many of the security staff working in its investigation department to the campaign, which is aimed at deterring the vandals and thieves who were responsible for causing damage of £19 million in 500,000 serious attacks on call boxes in the last financial year.

The security operation has been helped by new equip-

ment in some call boxes which can "report" when they are under attack by sending signals to the local Telecom engineering department. The "phone detectives" have also carried out surveillance operations and worked out the pattern being used by some gangs of thieves.

Telecom hopes for more arrests in the new year and may extend a trial scheme of offering rewards for information about telephone thieves and vandals to the whole country.

Mr Michael Bett, managing director of Telecom's UK Communications Division, said yesterday: "We are convinced that thievery and knavery are responsible for a third of all call boxes which are out of action and we are determined to put a stop to this sort of crime."

"In London alone in the

past year we have had to change 6,000 of the 11,000 handsets in call boxes. We have tried to educate the public about the vital role of pay phones but now it is time for a drive against crime and to try the reward scheme which has worked well in some American cities."

For the past fortnight, people in Croydon, south London, have been encouraged to call the operator and ask for Freephone Vandalphone if they have information about people attacking or stealing from call boxes. A reward of up to £500 will be paid for information leading to successful prosecution.

The most recent survey of Britain's 79,000 call boxes showed that a quarter were out of order and Telecom believes that theft and vandalism are the main causes of faults.

Mr Bett said: "There seems

no end to the methods the thieves and vandals will employ. One of my managers was convinced he had found a way of defeating a gang who were jacking coin containers off the back of call boxes and taking them away in a lorry to open later."

"He had arranged for the containers to be attached by high tensile bolts but the gang merely jacked off the entire back of the phone box and put it on their lorry."

Mr Bett has pledged that 90 per cent of call boxes will be working at any one time by March next year. Telecom will also be increasing its education programme pioneered in Liverpool where 90 per cent of phones used to be out of order in some districts. A character called PC Payphone with a call box unit on his chest has been visiting primary schools.

School job excluded white man

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

A nursery school funded by a left-wing council has been found guilty of racial discrimination after refusing a man a job because he was white.

An industrial tribunal in London yesterday ordered the school, which is run by Haringey council, to pay Mr Gary Marshall, aged 41, £1,800 because he was told that, as a white man, it was "not worth his while" going for an interview for a job.

The job advertisement asked: "Are you seriously interested in looking after children?" and recommended an understanding of Afro-Caribbean culture and anti-racist and anti-sexist childcare.

Mr Marshall told the tribunal that there was no indication that the £7,179-a-year job at Tottenham Green Under Fives Centre, where 86 per cent of the children are black, was not open to a white person. However, on telephoning the centre he was asked by Miss Penny Twydel, a nursery school worker, if he was white or black.

When Mr Marshall, who had already been shortlisted for the post, said he was white, Miss Twydel replied: "You will not be suitable for the job and it will not be worth your while to come down for the interview."

The school was ordered to pay Mr Marshall £1,200, equal to one sixth of the salary attached to the job, plus £600 for "injury to feeling".

A waitress who was sexually harassed from the day she started her first job was awarded £1,500 by an industrial tribunal yesterday. Miss Anne Marie Skirving, aged 17, of Balornock, Glasgow, was unlawfully discriminated against on the grounds of her sex by Mr Colin Girasoli, aged 33, manager of the Centre Grill in Dundas Street, Glasgow.

Miss Skirving told the tribunal that Mr Girasoli had discussed pornographic films with his brother-in-law when he took her home in his car on the night of her first day at work. When ever she bent over he would either whistle or slap her bottom and on one occasion he asked if he could have sexual intercourse.

Wife dies ramming juggernaut

Mrs Margaret Fosbray died yesterday after crashing into a police car and then ramming a juggernaut head-on.

Mrs Fosbray, who had been reported missing by her family in Rainham, Kent, on Monday, was first seen in a car park at the top of the White Cliffs of Dover at dawn.

She crashed into the police vehicle as she drove away and was followed by three patrol cars along the A2.

Police said they did not use their blue lights or sirens during the incident, which they are treating as suicide, and emphasized they were not chasing the car.

PC for trial

Police Constable Richard Passfield, aged 31, and Jennifer Duncan, aged 28, a telephonist, both of Pondsfield House, Highbury, north London, were sent for trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court when they appeared before Highbury magistrates yesterday accused of supplying cannabis. Both were allowed bail.

Trident port

The docks at Barrow, in Cumbria, are to be updated at a cost of £20 million to allow Trident nuclear submarines to use the port. The work is expected to begin next year.

£69m order

British Rail Engineering at Derby has won a £69 million order to build 194 diesel engines for Sprinter Express trains, but the order will not affect plans to shed 1,420 jobs before privatization.

£30,000 loss

A thief stole jewellery worth £30,000 from the Rev Terry Lawson, who runs an hotel in Owls Road, Bournemouth, and is a minister of the Covenant Assembly Church in Southampton.

Casino raid

Police were last night hunting a gunman who stole £30,000 from the Olympic Casino in Plymouth and escaped with the security video tape that could have been used to identify him.

Prayers for Waite at refuge

By Ruth Gledhill

As more than 100 down-and-outs queued for bread and soup yesterday, organizers of Britain's best-known Christmas refuge for the homeless were missing one of their helpers: Mr Terry Waite.

Crisis at Christmas, about to enter its twenty-first year, opened its doors to the country's destitute, without the familiar presence of the Archbishop's kidnapped envoy.

At least 1,000 men and women are expected to make the journey to the empty south London factory in Verney Road where 800 unpaid volunteers will help feed and look after them for the next seven days.

The volunteers will pray for the safe return of Mr Waite at a Christmas Eve midnight service. Last year, Mr Waite spent most of Christmas Day at the factory.

Ms Joanna Wade, vice-chairwoman of the charity, said: "Terry helped with the chores and went round chatting to people. It was an enormous boost."

She expects about 600 people a night over Christmas and has helped to organize dental

A Christmas appeal for renewed efforts to free hostages in the Lebanon was made yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

Dr Runcie said: "Christmas is for most people a time of joy, especially for family joy. But for some people that very fact heightens their sense of loss at the absence of loved ones."

"I think especially of Terry Waite and John McCarthy, who have been held in captivity for so long in Lebanon."

"For Terry, this is the first Christmas since his captivity began and for John his second. They will feel their isolation even more at Christmas."

"Islam and Christianity have mutual respect for each other. At this sacred season I

and medical care, hairdressing facilities, television, regular meals and a full Christmas lunch."

Mr Duncan Blake, one of the first in the queue, is spending his thirteenth Christmas with the charity, even though he now has a place to live. Intelligent and articulate, organizers described him as one of their success stories.

therefore have no hesitation in making a special appeal to the religious and political leaders in Lebanon and the other countries which, in one way or another, may have influence on the captors.

"I pray that they will do all in their power to bring about the speedy release of all the hostages in the Lebanon of whatever nationality."

"I know that Christians in this country and throughout the world will remember in their prayers, not only the hostages and their families but also the suffering people of Lebanon who have for so long endured the agonies of civil war."

Last night, Lambeth Palace said it still had no hard news about Mr Waite.

He said: "I was on the road with nowhere to live for more than 10 years. I now have a bed and my life is getting better."

"But I keep coming back to see all my friends and to enjoy myself. I love the atmosphere here and for me it is the best possible way to spend Christmas."

Tour firms cut price of holidays

Travel companies have shaved millions of pounds off next summer's holiday prices.

Intasun has cut the cost of 200,000 high season holidays by £20 per adult to anyone booking before March 31.

Mr Roger Heape, the tour company's managing director, said: "The response to our family booking offers has been so exceptional, with bookings up 60 per cent on last year that we have extended them into the new year."

All Sunlight self-catering holiday prices are being reduced by £25.

As a further inducement to holidaymakers to book early, those booking a summer holiday before the end of April will receive a brochure offering 20 per cent reductions on clothes bought from Dorothy Perkins and Burtons stores.

At Thomson Holidays, which earlier this month announced cuts of £18 million in its 1988 summer prices, a spokesman said travel agents and tour operators were expecting their biggest Christmas rush.

Fees plan 'threat to dental health'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Record improvements in the nation's dental health could be put at risk by the government's proposals to charge for check-ups, according to a survey today.

The Government has proposed levying a charge of about £3 for a dental check-up. However dentists argue that this could deter families from continuing regular six-monthly visits.

The survey shows that while over the past decade the British are eating record amounts of chocolate, cakes and confectionery, the nation's dental health has improved dramatically, partly as a result of an increased use of fluoridation.

Although less than 10 per cent of the country's water is fluoridated, more than 95 per cent of all toothpaste contains fluoride, compared with 5 per cent in 1970.

In the past 10 to 15 years the number of fillings given to children under 12 has dropped by between a third and a half. Throughout England the number of fillings has dropped from 35.1 million to 25.1 million.

and, every regional health authority has recorded significant reductions, says the survey by the Press Association.

The survey shows that the state of the nation's teeth is better in the south than the north. There are nearly twice as many people without any teeth in Yorkshire and Humberside (33 per cent) as in Greater London (17 per cent).

Professional men living in and around London boast the most teeth, while people with the least tend to be female, unskilled, manual workers in Scotland or the north of England.

Professor Martin Curzon, of Leeds University's Department of Child Health, said one reason why Yorkshire has so many toothless people was that the county had a poor ratio of dentists to population and had no National Health Service specialists in child dentistry.

Children growing up without dental trouble were likely to keep their teeth well into old age and some would never lose all of them, he said.

Christmas food prices

Shortage of large turkeys is possible

Although there are enough turkeys to satisfy shoppers, the glut and bargains experienced last year through over-production are not likely to be seen again. In fact, there is the possibility of a shortage of 12-16lb fresh birds for last-minute shoppers.

There is no shortage of frozen birds from 52p a lb but by now only the smaller birds will be available. Sainsbury has fresh turkeys at 98p a lb and Tesco at £1.04 a lb.

Marks & Spencer has boneless turkey roasts with chestnut stuffing at £2.39 a lb; cock pheasant for £4.99 each; hen

pheasant and wild duck at £4.75 each and frozen geese at £1.99 a lb. Gateway has fresh duck at £1.05 a lb.

As most fishing boats will be tied up until January 12, this is the last chance to buy fresh fish. White fish is the national best buy and there is already a scarcity of herring and mackerel. Fresh salmon is an excellent buy. Tesco has it at £2.99 a lb and Presto at £2.95 a lb.

There is no shortage of home-grown vegetables. Although English cauliflowers are finishing soon, there are imports from Jersey, Brittany and Italy. As well as home-grown potatoes, there

are Italian new potatoes at 30-35p a lb. Celery, a must with stilton, costs 40-60p a head. Chinese leaves are 65-95p each and iceberg lettuce is 80p-£1.20.

Christmas fruits, such as oranges, at 10-30p each, satsumas at 30-45p and clementines at 35-45p, are plentiful. English apples, at 24-45p a lb, taste lovely but the imported red delicious, at 35-55p, look good in fruit bowls.

Last-minute suggestions: Bejam has a Christmas pudding ice-cream in which you can really taste the rum and a box of 28 canapés ready to pop in the oven when required for £1.45.

Where to get your Boxing Day Times

Newsagents throughout Britain will be opening on Boxing Day, when *The Times* is the only quality newspaper that will be published. In some places where newsagents are not opening, wholesalers will be setting up temporary news stands. In addition to many independent newsagents, most outlets of the following retail chains will be open:

John Menzies, Martins, Lewis Meeson, Lavells, R S McColl (Scotland), Star News (Midlands), GT News (Sheffield area), Circle K/Sperrig, Portsmouth Newspapers, Surridge Dawson, Dillons.

W H Smith will not be open.

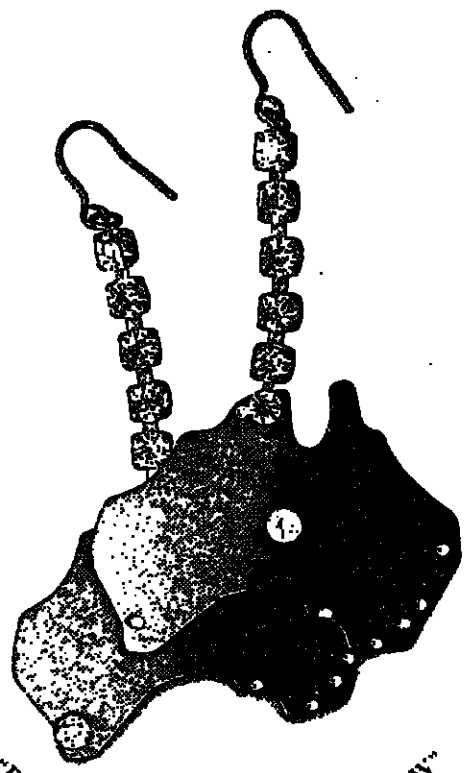
To be sure of your *Times*, hand the order form to your newsagent today.

I would like to receive a copy of *The Times* on Boxing Day

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

This year, everyone gets what they want for Christmas.



"DAME EDNA'S CHRISTMAS SHOW"



"IT'LL BE ALRIGHT ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT" PRESENTED BY DENIS NORDEN.



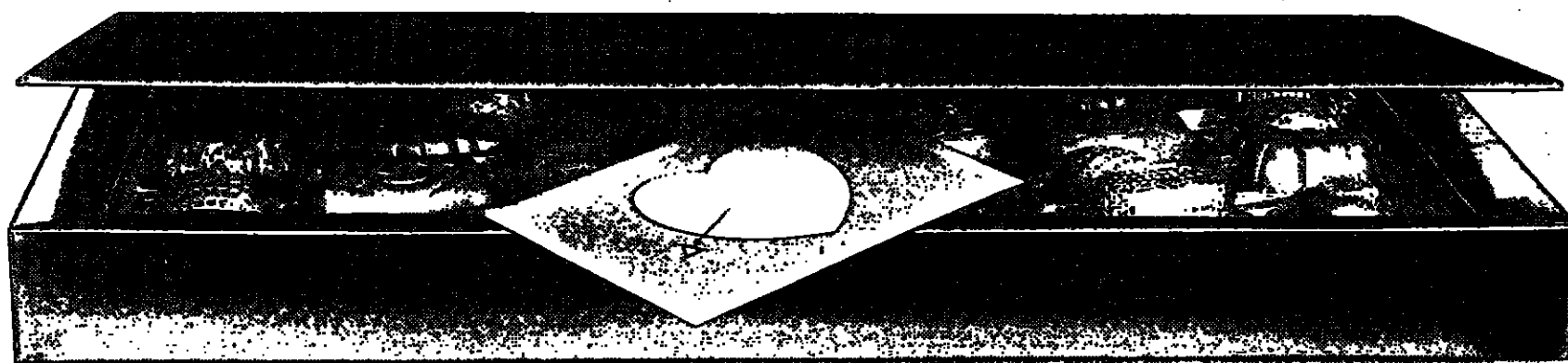
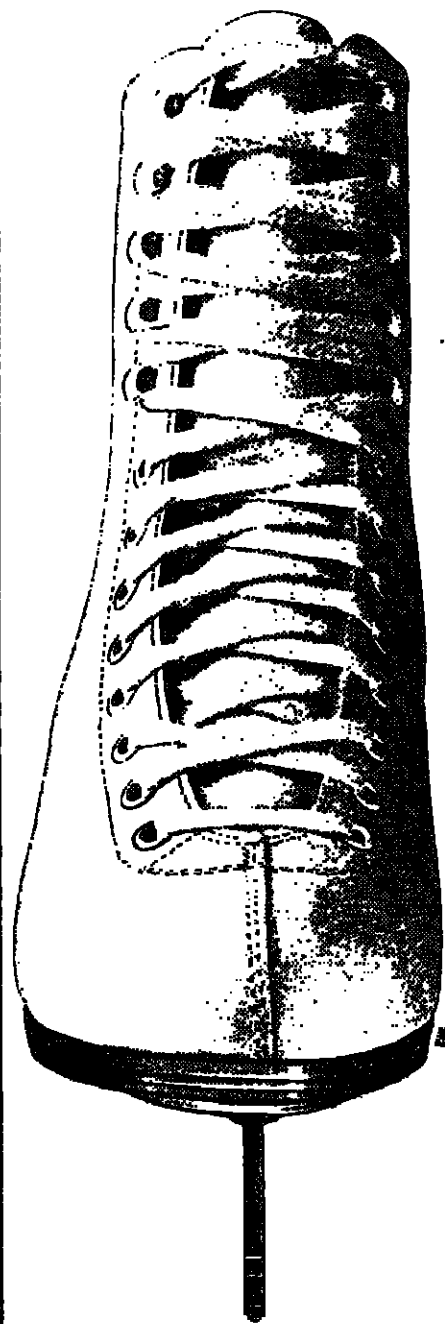
JOHN THAW AS A DETECTIVE IN OXFORD



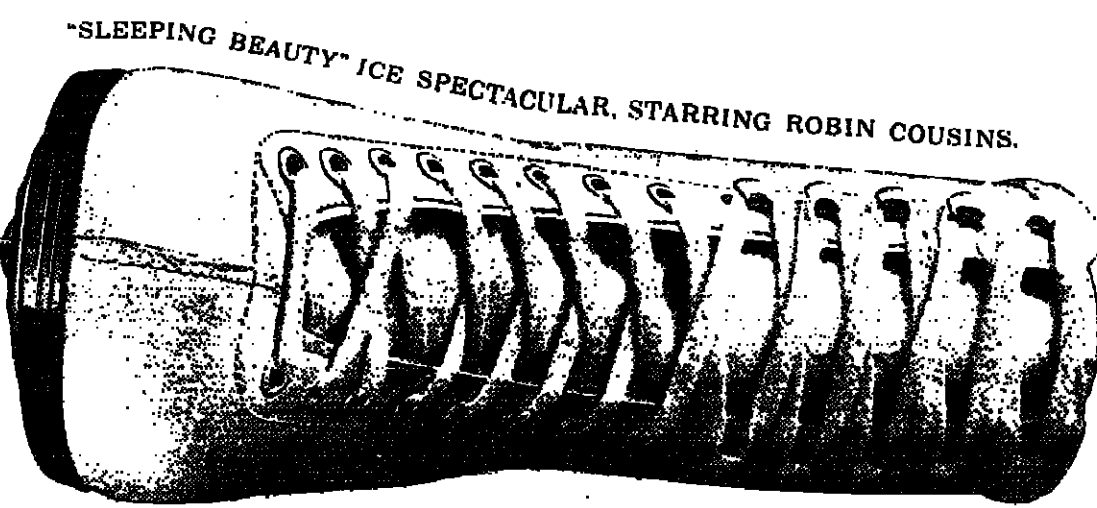
"SPITTING IMAGE"



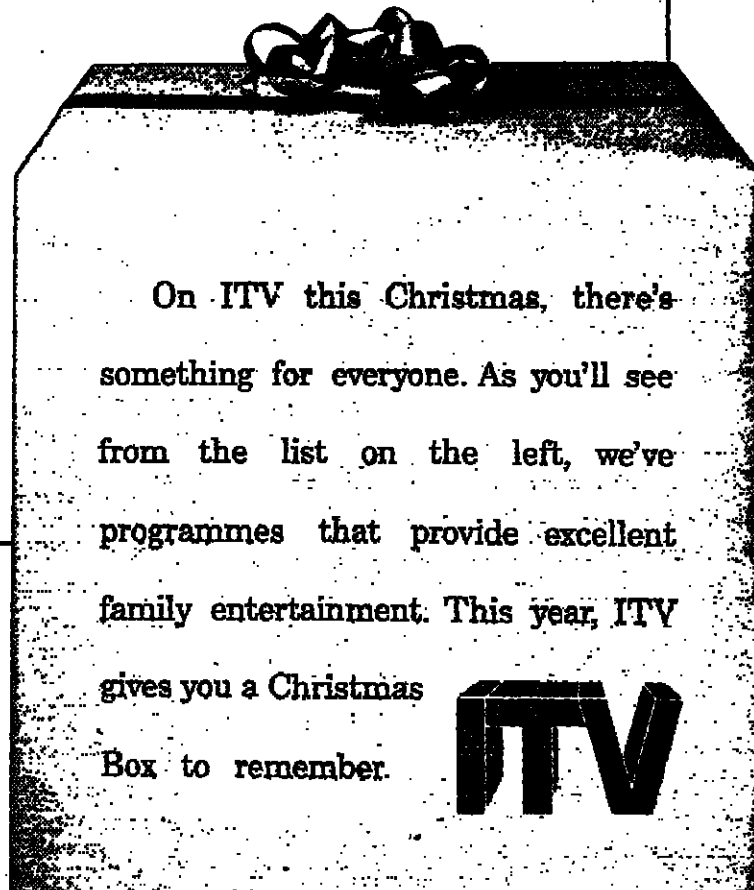
"GHOSTBUSTERS"



"BLIND DATE"



"SLEEPING BEAUTY" ICE SPECTACULAR, STARRING ROBIN COUSINS.



On ITV this Christmas, there's something for everyone. As you'll see from the list on the left, we've programmes that provide excellent family entertainment. This year, ITV gives you a Christmas Box to remember.

ITV

These are just some of the programmes.

CHRISTMAS DAY: It'll Be Alright On Christmas Night, Inspector Morse, Bedknobs and Broomsticks, Blind Date, and a very special Coronation Street; **BOXING DAY:** The Dame Edna Christmas Experience, the TV premiere of Ghostbusters, The Sleeping Beauty Ice Spectacular, a Saint and Greavsie Boxing Day Special; **SUNDAY, 27 DECEMBER:** The Royal Year, Surprise Surprise, Spitting Image, Home to Roost.

صحنه من الراحل

MERCHANDISE IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME LINES ARE AVAILABLE AT LARGER BRANCHES ONLY.

Special
unit se
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Housing
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BBC job fight
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casual attitude

Special jail unit set up to house violent prisoners

By Kerry Gill

Violent and disruptive inmates in Scottish prisons are to be moved to a new "half-way house" unit, government sources disclosed yesterday.

Twenty inmates from Peterhead prison, the scene of a violent riot at the end of September, were being transferred to the unit yesterday and later today.

The unit, which has accommodation for 60 men, was opened this week in E Hall, the old wing of Shotts prison in Lanark.

Although the hall will have no specific title, the Scottish Prison Service has opened it to accommodate some of the more disruptive prisoners now being held in their cells for 23 hours a day.

It is designed to hold men who have already been involved in violent acts and also inmates thought likely to cause trouble. Those in the latter category will be taken to the unit at Shotts for assessment and will have to demonstrate their willingness to behave before being allowed back into the mainstream of prison life.

Among the 20 prisoners being transferred from Peterhead this week are several who were involved in roof-top riots.

Only last week, Mr Tom Buyers, Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland, said that special units for violent prisoners should be opened as a matter of urgency.

The Shotts unit will be a temporary expedient before permanent units can be opened elsewhere.

There were 62 violent incidents at Peterhead last year and 108 prison staff were injured. Prison authorities believe a hard core of trouble-makers is responsible for much of the violence.

Of the 62 incidents, 23 prisoners were involved in all of them, 11 were responsible for 52 incidents, and two prisoners were responsible for 11.

The authorities admit that Rule 36, under which prisoners can be kept in their cells for 23 hours a day and have

their meals in their cells, is not the best way of dealing with violent men. Faced with no alternative, such as small secure units, it has been the best way of containing trouble.

About forty inmates in Scotland are believed to be being held under Rule 36 at present.

"Often a prisoner will come out fighting", the Scottish Office said yesterday. "But staff would rather have a punch on the nose than have a knife at their throat."

The regime at the new Shotts unit will be stricter than at other prisons. Only half the population will be allowed to associate at one time and a ratio of one prison officer to three prisoners is expected to be introduced.

The unit is also seen as a warning to any inmates likely to cause trouble, as well as containing proven violent elements.

Meanwhile, the annual report of the Prison Services in Scotland for 1986, published yesterday, showed that the number of inmates needing treatment for drug abuse rose from 1,360 in 1985 to 1,437 last year.

The overall figures, the Scottish Office admitted, "give great cause for concern".

There has been a 40 per cent increase in the number of female prisoners needing treatment for drug abuse. Fewer inmates have had to be treated for alcoholism, however - a downward trend which has continued over the past few years.

Mr Alistair Thomson, director of the Prison Services in Scotland, said the number of long-term prisoners increased by more than 50 per cent to 1,166.

Although the amount of hard drugs, such as heroin, smuggled into Scottish prisons is very small, the authorities are still concerned about the level of cases involving smuggled cannabis.

Few inmates acquire the drug habit in prison, however, compared with Scandinavia, where about 30 per cent of addicts learn the habit while serving a sentence.

Arthritic boy set on helping others

By Tony Hodges

The cheeky grin could be that of any boy aged six being given a cuddle by his mother, but the gamut of splints and surgical collar show that Ben Clark is no ordinary schoolboy.

Ben, of Stanway, Essex, has suffered juvenile arthritis since he was two. However, it has not stopped him helping to spearhead a fund raising campaign by the Lady Howe Trust for Physically Handicapped Children.

His photograph appears on the front of the Trust's appeal leaflets and he has given several magazine interviews.

He has been rewarded by achieving one of his ambitions, to meet Sooty back-stage at a West End theatre. Ben's ambition now is to travel to the United States to visit Disneyland.

His mother, Mrs Judy Clark, who spends two hours a day massaging his hands and feet, said: "That is typical of Ben. Nothing holds him back."

"He goes to an ordinary school and takes part in all the rough and tumble. They treat him the same as any other youngster. He has a cheery personality and is always making people laugh."

"He wants to do everything that other boys do and watches his eight-year-old brother, Simon, and tries to copy him. That has been a big help."



In addition to the daily massage, Ben has to take various pills and medicines, visit a physiotherapist once a week and a hospital once a month after starting to take a new type of drug.

He recently underwent an operation to help to straighten his feet.

All this treatment has eased the arthritis in his neck, which was so stiff that he could hardly move it.

Mrs Clark and her husband, Geoffrey, an assistant bank manager, are spurred on by the knowledge that some children have succeeded in beating the illness completely. Ben, meanwhile, keeps them

laughing by dressing up in his Superman, Spiderman or Mr T outfits, and through his drawing and painting. Indeed, he just wants to get on with his life. (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater)

British Aerospace cuts show spending

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

British Aerospace has confirmed that it will be forced to cut back on its displays at next year's Farnborough international air show.

The company has been seriously affected by the fall in the American dollar - the currency its exports are negotiated with - and an overall "belt-tightening" has been ordered.

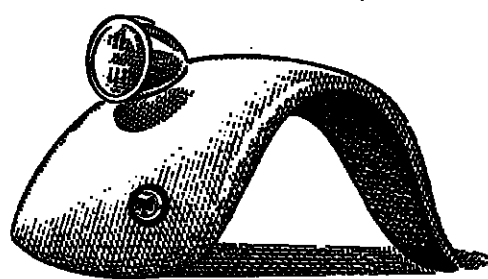
British Aerospace said: "There is a general drive on efficiency, accelerated by the impact of the dollar on us. There will probably be fewer aircraft on display and we'll be feeding fewer people in our chalets."

The organizer of the Farnborough air show, the Society of British Aerospace Companies, has played down the impact of the British Aerospace decision. The society said that bookings for next year's show had already exceeded expectations.

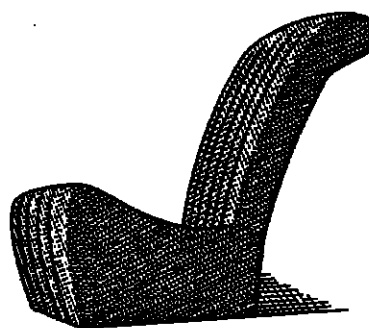
It said the aerospace industry had had an excellent year, with sales increased by 20 per cent, and there was a great demand to participate in next year's air show.

British Aerospace said its participation in the air show was expensive. The last show, in 1986, was believed to have cost the company about £2 million.

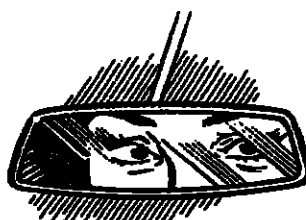
WHAT ARE YOU BUYING HER FOR CHRISTMAS?



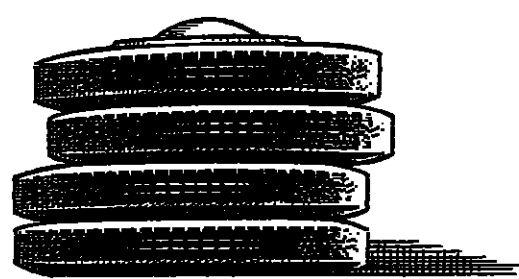
Some precious metal?



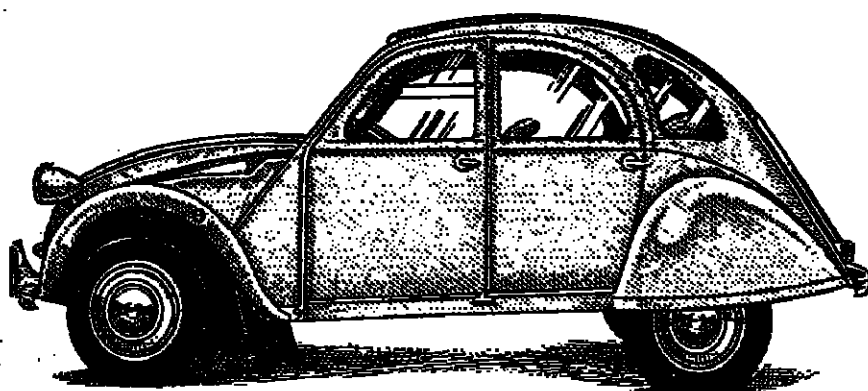
Some designer furniture?



A vanity mirror, perhaps?



Dare we suggest, some rubber wear?



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Housing policies 'thwart jobs hunt'

By Ronald Faux, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Rigid local authority housing policies are restricting the search for work by unemployed manual workers, the Employment Institute reported yesterday.

The overall rate of unemployment could be eased and regional differences narrowed if reforms that made manual labourers more mobile were introduced, it said.

Local authorities should be required to reserve more of their council house re-lets for those migrating into the county and an increased requirement from 1 per cent to 5 per cent could have a significant impact on where workers decided to settle.

The report, by Dr Barry McCormick, of Southampton University economics department, called for more land in the south-east of England to be made available for private housing that was within the means of manual workers.

It also sought extra funding through rate support grant to local authorities that increased their council house building to target levels.

With the impending privatization of council housing stock, large-scale private landlords such as building societies should be given preference where they were prepared to undertake mobility schemes.

The problem would be helped, the report said, if an individual's migration expenses were made tax deductible. That could substantially improve the labour market for a modest cost of £100 million.

The report said that owner-occupiers had proved to be more than four times more mobile between regions than council tenants as the stock of both public housing and private rentable accommodation had been reduced.

Tenants wishing to move to another region yet remain within the council system must seek an exchange with another council tenant so that mobility was restricted by the imbalance between those seeking to move to prosperous areas and those wishing to leave.

The Association of London Authorities said that with 9,000 families living in bed-and-breakfast accommodation and 29,000 households accepted as homeless by the London boroughs, it would be impossible to have any hope of providing homes for people who wanted to come into London looking for a job.

The Government's refusal to allow new building and a 75 per cent cut in housing budgets over the past six years were to blame, he said.

BBC job fight woman denies casual attitude

A woman who is claiming sex discrimination against the BBC after a man was promoted over her and four other women, denied at an industrial tribunal yesterday that she had a "casual attitude" and was a bad time-keeper.

Miss Rosemary Glass, aged 36, of Algernon Road, Lewisham, south-east London, who says she should have been appointed to the £14,500-a-year senior researcher's job in the external services department, told the tribunal at Chelsea, south-west London, that the man appointed had been a researcher for only two years.

Miss Glass denied that she did not get on with the man, who she described as "totally clueless" and "a poor researcher". She said she had been led to believe that she would get the job. The hearing continues.

EEC fines toy company for blocking trade

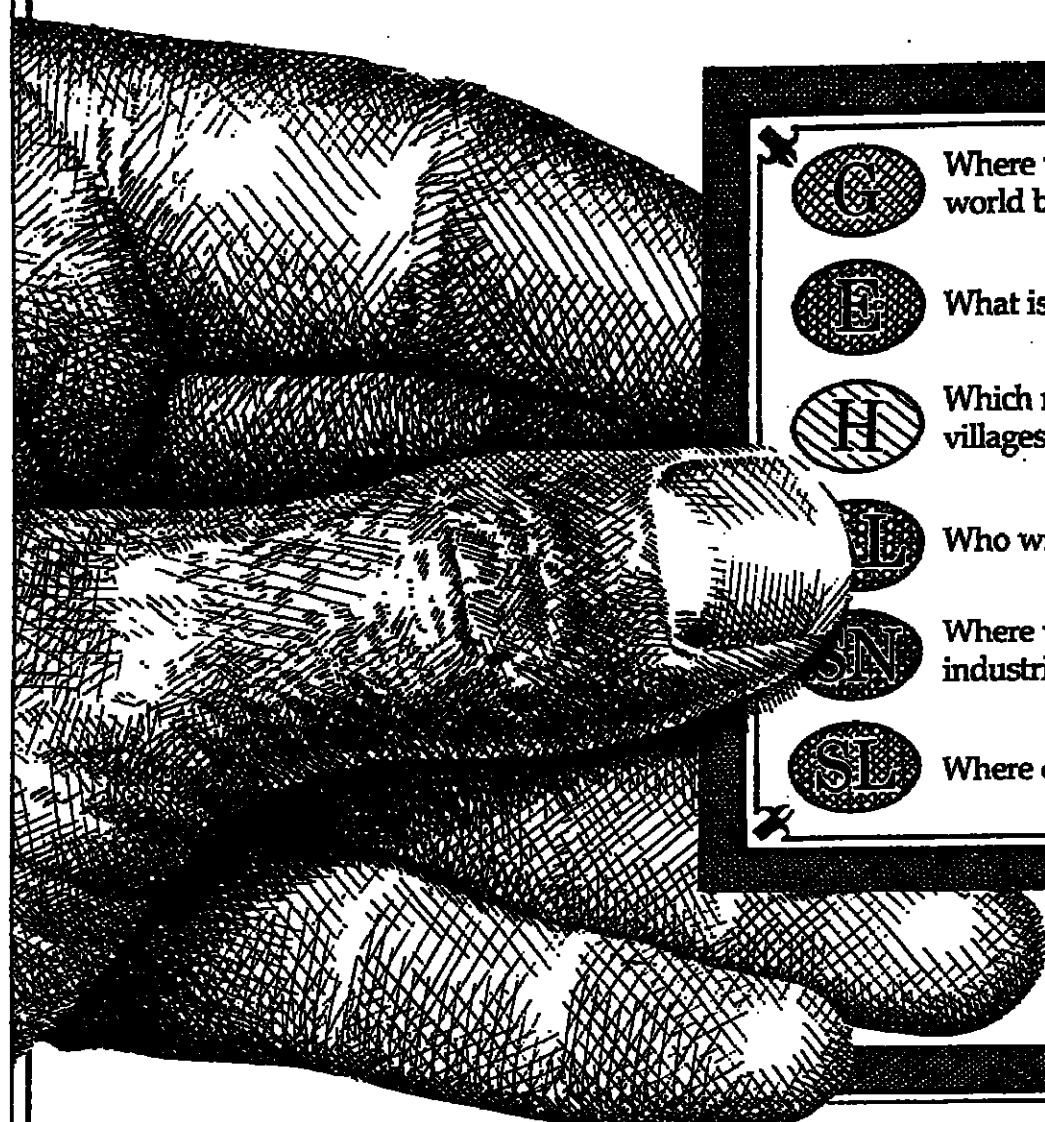
A British toy company has been fined £210,000 by the European Commission for breaching rules on free competition.

Quaker Oats, owners of Fisher Price Toys, restricted exports of its products to Ireland between November 1982 and August 1985 to prevent Irish toy retailers buying the range more cheaply through wholesalers in Britain instead of through official domestic outlets. The move propped up Ireland's higher prices.

The Commission said yesterday that the fine would have been heavier had Quaker Oats not moved to bring its European marketing operation into line with EEC rules.

The British and West German branches of Gonca, the film manufacturer, were both fined £52,000 for a similar breach of regulations.

ITV



- G** Where was the first Japanese peace pagoda in the western world built?
- E** What is Manhattan's secret identity in *Superman IV*?
- H** Which major city grew around three towns and thirteen villages in just 20 years?
- L** Who wrote *Paradise Lost*?
- SN** Where will you find the highest concentration of industrial automation in the U.K.?
- SL** Where did *The Style Council* want you to come to in 1986?

- G** Which is the fastest-growing city in the U.K.?
- E** Where did David Bowie go Bowling on his *Serious Moonlight Tour*?
- H** In 1987 which U.K. city could boast of £1 billion worth of private investment?
- AL** Which English city's T.V. commercial was inspired by the classic French film *Le Ballon Rouge*?
- SN** Where was *Energy World '86*?
- SL** Where is the finishing point of the annual Historic Commercial Club's cycle run from London?

- G** Where will you find Mercedes, Coca-Cola, Nina Ricci, Minolta, Hoechst, NEC and Volkswagen-Audi all in the same place?
- E** Where is the pyramid-shaped, multi-entertainment complex known as *The Point*?
- H** Which British city created over 3,500 new jobs in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986?
- AL** Where can you find six famous bovine sculptures?
- SN** What location did Epson Computers choose for their only R & D centre outside Japan?
- SL** Where was *The Great Balloon Race* of 1984?

- G** Where is the *Central Business Exchange*?
- E** Which city's T.V. commercial featured music composed by Michael Nyman?
- H** Name the famous British economist who died in 1946.
- AL** Cleo Laine and John Dankworth's *Wavendon Allmusic Plan* is based in which city?
- SN** Which English city has planted 13 million trees and shrubs?
- SL** Where did the first major new cinema in the UK for over 30 years open its doors?

WORLD ROUNDUP

Soyuz docks with Mir space station

Moscow — A Soyuz TM4 spacecraft carrying three Soviet cosmonauts docked yesterday with the orbiting space station Mir, in a manoeuvre shown live on Soviet television (A Correspondent writes). Tass enthusiastically announced a successful operation almost five minutes before.

Two of the three cosmonauts — Colonel Vladimir Titov, the mission commander, and Flight Engineer Musa Manarov — are replacing Colonel Yuri Romanenko, who holds the space endurance record with more than 300 days on board the Mir, and Alexander Alexandrov. Yesterday's third arrival, Mr Anatoly Lavchenko, a research scientist, will leave Mir with the old crew.

Alfonsín gives in Mass for victims

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — President Alfonsín of Argentina has approved the promotion of a naval officer accused of human rights abuses in an apparent effort to head off a crisis with the military on this issue.

He signed the promotion of Lieutenant Alfredo Astiz to Captain but instructed the Defence Ministry that Astiz "should not remain on active duty". Astiz has been accused by human rights groups of a wide variety of abuses, including the kidnapping of two French nuns in 1977 and a Swedish Argentine youth.

Organ baby dead

Los Angeles — A baby girl at the centre of an organ transplant controversy was stillborn in California yesterday (A Correspondent writes). If she had lived, her parents, Brenda and Michael Winner, wanted her kept alive, as an organ donor, even though she suffered a brain defect. Doctors at Loma Linda Hospital said the stress of delivery was too much for a baby which had no skull bones.

Spy chief promoted Malta MP accused

General Muhammad Khali, the head of Syrian Air Force Intelligence suspected of masterminding a plot to blow up an El Al jet at Heathrow last year, has been promoted to deputy commander of the Air Force (Nicholas Beeston writes).

His removal as air force intelligence chief was an unwritten condition that Britain set on the restoration of normal relations with Syria after the conviction of Nezar Hindawi in London for the bombing attempt.

Bardot in mourning

Brigitte Bardot, the French actress, left, mourning yesterday at the funeral of her friend, Mme Marie Lepape-Ferrandi, in the city of Toulon, southern France.

Mme Lepape-Ferrandi, who was the president of the Animal Protection Association for south-eastern France, was killed in a car crash last Sunday. Her friendship with the actress had developed out of their mutual interest in welfare work for animals.

Royal titles fraud shocks Thailand

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Leaders of Thai society have been shocked to discover that hundreds of people in their circle are using titles and wearing decorations obtained by fraud.

The uncovering of the scandal has led to the suicide of an official in the Prime Minister's office and the arrest of 15 prominent people, including a former minister and the deputy secretary-general of the Cabinet.

Mr Chalermchai Buathong, who kept seals of the King and Prime Minister's signatures, shot himself dead shortly before he was to be interrogated by police.

As many as 400 well-known people are believed to have decorations which were procured for them fraudulently by a ring allegedly led by a well-

known monk. Those arrested include a former Deputy Education Minister, Mr Khunthong Phooipuduan, and the Cabinet's deputy secretary-general, Mr Methee Borisat.

An unnamed former prime minister is said to be a suspect.

A well-known monk, Phra Kru Adukkh, who was defrocked after his arrest, is recovering from a nervous breakdown.

More than £4 million is thought to have passed through his hands, none of it reaching the charities. Titles, medals and sashes were issued by the racket operators who printed false copies of the royal gazette announcing the awards. The Government is to ask the King to cancel the decorations.

Nature reclaims Beirut's ruined streets

From Robert Fisk west Beirut

In the cavernous ruins of the old Beirut front line, nature has begun to imitate politics this winter. The streets — broken, mined and deserted for years — are carpeted with grass. Bushes long ago sprouted from the pavements, but now entire trees have grown out of the barricades which were erected with so much sectarian conviction a decade ago.

Whole areas of central Beirut are now being reclaimed by nature, as overgrown as the political system which has so regularly betrayed Lebanon.

The evidence is everywhere, on the "green line" dividing the city at the empty museum where hundreds walk mournfully each day from sector to sector, accepting the de facto partition of the country which their Government is too weak to acknowledge. In Hamra Street where not a Christmas tree — not one decorative light — marks the festive this week, Christians still live in west Beirut but radical sentiment among the Shia Muslims has ensured that only the tattered year-old remains of one line of Christmas bunting still hang beside the gas station above Bliss Street.

At the weekend, the winter storms swept in on Beirut with a vengeance, tearing at the great trees on the American University campus, flood-

ing the roads and inundating the Palestinian camps. At Chatila, it will be remembered, all was now supposed to be well. The ceasefire between Palestinians and Shia Muslims was agreed last month; Palestinian civilians would be permitted to return and rebuild their homes with materials provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency.

But yesterday, I could see only one old man walking round the barricade into Chatila, past the waterlogged mass graves of the 1982 massacre. No rebuilding materials have been provided because the Shia Amal militia insisted that the UN agency give them the same amount of cement as they provided for the Palestinians. The UN refused. So no houses have been repaired, no civilians have returned from their refugee hovels, and 950 of the 1,000 souls inside Chatila — according to the UN's own estimate — are now armed Palestinian guerrillas.

It would be a cliché to say that the Palestinians of west Beirut have never been so desperate. Their lives — and deaths — have a special monotony because they have so little purpose. That at least cannot be said of their fellow-Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.

The UN agency's gloomy statistics show that up to 12,000 civilians have hung on in the ruins of the Bourj el-Barajneh camp but that up

to 5,000 other Palestinians are living in abandoned apartments, in basements, even in the ruins of the old American Embassy in Ein el-Mreisse, destroyed by a suicide bomber in April 1983.

These people now make up the most pressing of all categories: they

Beirut (Reuters) — The bullet-riddled bodies of two Syrian soldiers were found in Muslim west Beirut yesterday, the Christian Voice of Lebanon radio said.

Police and Syrian officials had no immediate comment on the report by the station, which is operated by the right-wing Phalange Party and opposes the Syrian military presence in the country. The bodies were said to have been found in the residential district of Corniche al-Mazraa. Reporters were barred from the area, which was sealed off by Syrian troops, witnesses said.

At least six Syrian soldiers have been killed by gunmen in Lebanon since October.

are refugees from the refugee camps. For the Lebanese, who have their own economic tragedy to face each day, the Palestinian story rarely takes on an individual quality, but it is there if you look for it.

"Disappearance of a young man

in west Beirut," stated the headline over a single paragraph in one of the morning papers on Tuesday. It

reported that an 18-year-old college boy called Ghayath Jamal Awar went missing as he walked from his home at 7.30 the previous morning. Only the "cognoscit" would have noted the college was at Mar Elias beside a small Palestinian camp, that Mr Awar was therefore almost certainly Palestinian and that — for many thousands of Lebanese — any 18-year-old Palestinian is a guerrilla. No one knows what happened to him.

Nor is there any Government agency interested in finding out. It is more comforting, even now after 12 years of internal conflict and foreign invasion, for the Lebanese to go on believing in ghosts. Thus each day the newspapers and radio news broadcast record President Amin Gemayel's routine visitors, the meetings of the powerless Prime Minister with the Speaker of the Parliament whose members have not stood for election in over a decade and a half.

Ambassadors — particularly Britain's over-eloquent plenipotentiary — are quoted *ad infinitum*, as if their nations could somehow put Lebanon together again.

Do the Lebanese still believe this sort of thing? In the southern suburbs of the city, where at least 20 foreign hostages still languish in basements, Mr Terry Waite among them, the inhabitants are now being exhorted to donate blood for the

battles being fought in southern Lebanon between Lebanese guerrillas and Israeli troops and their militia allies. The Israeli killing of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza has given new spiritual cause to this conflict.

Little wonder, then, that fertile minds in the ruins of the camps can concoct attacks on Israel like the hang-glider assault earlier this month. There is talk in Beirut of more airline hijackings in the future, of a greater role by Abu Nidal's frightening assassination squads, now comfortably installed in the great Palestinian camp of Ein Helwe, outside Sidon.

The Syrians have withdrawn many of their soldiers from the streets of the capital, content now to maintain the status quo in west Beirut rather than impose further security restrictions.

On the first two miles of the airport road, the most dangerous stretch of highway in the world for the very few foreigners who still live in west Beirut, I could find only two Syrian soldiers yesterday: the roads into the southern suburbs were unguarded, a group of Shia gunmen stood by the entrance to the Bourj el-Barajneh camp, searching the handbags of Palestinian women, unaware that their act humiliated them as much as it did their victims. Beirut has a habit of doing that: of ensuring that dignity is as rare as peace.

Kremlin says 1,500 rebels die in battles for siege city

From A Correspondent, Moscow

Soviet and Afghan government troops fighting to reopen a strategic road in south-east Afghanistan near the Pakistani border, controlled for several years by the resistance, have killed 1,500 Afghan rebels in a two-day offensive, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, said yesterday.

Mr Gerasimov told a news briefing that the offensives had been launched on Monday to open the road between Khost, a town of 40,000 encircled by rebel forces, and Gardez, some 70 miles further north.

Mr Gerasimov refused to say how many Soviet and Afghan troops had been killed or wounded in the offensive around Khost, which according to Western diplomats is the biggest military operation since the intervention in Afghanistan eight years ago.

Western diplomats said the casualty toll given by Mr Gerasimov was probably exaggerated.

Afghan forces, "supported by Soviet troops", were advancing along the road from both Gardez and Khost, Mr Gerasimov said, adding that 25 miles now separated both groups. This appeared to mean that 25 miles was still controlled by the US-backed rebels.

At the same time, Soviet and Afghan troops are currently engaged in attempts to break the rebel siege of Khost, in an offensive announced last Saturday, on Soviet television. Soviet officials have until now rarely discussed military operations in Afghanistan.

Mr Gerasimov said the offensive was the second stage

of an operation by the government forces after the rebels rejected peace initiatives. The earlier operation lasted four days last month, after troops based in Gardez had been "partially airlifted to the Khost region".

The army managed to retake a mountain range south-west of Gardez in the first stage of the operation which was halted on November 28 during a Loya Jirga (Parliament) in Kabul, Mr Gerasimov said.

The Loya Jirga also gave the rebels a 20-day ultimatum to lift their siege of Khost or face the military consequences. The resistance had been warned as early as April last year, when the Government established an important base 12 miles south-west of Khost, that the road must be reopened, Mr Gerasimov said.

"In the autumn the Government decided to conduct operations to open up that road." He said that on Sunday representatives of the local Zadran tribe told the Afghan Government they wanted to resolve the problem peacefully but that the rebels were preventing this. So the next day, "military operations resumed", Mr Gerasimov said.

A total of 8,000 tonnes of food were waiting in Gardez to be taken to the starving population of Khost, he indicated, adding that food supplies could be flown in only by night because of the risk to aircraft during the day. This was a reference to the rebels' use of Stinger and Blowpipe missiles.

Mr Gerasimov said the Afghan rebels wanted to control Khost "so as to detach it from Afghanistan and proclaim their own government".

News of the offensive in the Khost region came as diplomatic efforts for a political settlement in Afghanistan, under which the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops would be withdrawn, appeared deadlocked.

Hundreds of thousands of steelworkers and miners in the Ruhr valley have taken to the streets in tense demonstrations. At one point, protesters broke into the Krupp boardroom at Bochum. In another incident, they entered the Krupp family headquarters, the mock-Renaissance Villa Hugel at Essen, starting at the priceless tapestries and paintings on the walls in a scene reminiscent of the storming of the Winter Palace.

Like other European steel in-

Barbed wire backcloth for mother and child



A woman clutching her baby entering the Dehaishe refugee camp, near Bethlehem, yesterday through a gap in a barricade erected by the Israeli Army. The barricade was put round the camp after stones were thrown at passing Israeli cars.

'Get-tough' policy by Israelis brings tense calm to occupied territories

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

The arrest of at least 300 Palestinian activists, a massive and obvious army presence and heavy rain combined yesterday to create the most peaceful day in the occupied territories for a fortnight.

The quiet follows the imposition of new "get-tough" policies introduced by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, as soon as he returned from a fortnight's trip to the United States on Monday evening.

By dusk, with thunderstorms raging up and down the West Bank, there had been only two reports of serious disturbances involving tyre burning and stone throwing. But there were no shots fired by the Army at either incident and troops stayed quietly out of range of the stones.

Even Gaza went back to work, with around 30,000 men reported to have crossed into Israel early in the morning to go back to jobs they have been boycotting for more than a week.

However, the calm in the rain is a tense and apprehen-

sive one, with Palestinians wondering what the effect will be on the "merciless policy" promised by Mr Rabin for putting down the disturbances.

He has said that everything will be done within Israeli law and that "any measure in accordance with army orders is justified if it achieves its goal" of stopping trouble. Army action, he said, was meant to show the Palestinians that they could achieve nothing by terrorism and violence.

The minister has promised that wherever the law allows arrests they will be made, and wherever there can be expulsions people will be deported. With Israel's security prisons already overcrowded, two extra detention centres are being prepared to accommodate the expected new influx of prisoners.

Apart from the arrests there is now apprehension in the camps that the Army is un-dermining the "get-tough" policy by these acts as a

deterrent. However, the Army insists that soldiers are under the strictest instructions to open fire only if lives are in danger.

The UN Relief and Works Agency in Gaza has, however, expressed "deep concern" to the military authorities about an incident in Jabalya camp on Tuesday afternoon in which a 17-year-old youth was killed and three others were wounded.

Mr Bernard Mills, director of the UN agency, was in the camp very shortly before the incident. He says he saw a group of about 150 youngsters in the camp's open square in front of a military post on which about 20 soldiers were standing. A few stones were being thrown but he believed the situation was under control.

He left for the short drive back to his office in Gaza town. Before he reached it a car carrying casualties rushed past him, indicating that the shooting must have started within minutes of his leaving.

The army version is that a

patrol was trapped in an alley by a mob and had to shoot its way to safety. The UN agency wants to know how it was possible for it to get into such a serious predicament in such a short time.

Both the Army and the police have opened an investigation into an incident on Tuesday at the village of Yatta, near Hebron. A 10-year-old girl was hit in the lung when she went up on the roof of her home to help hang up the washing.

A demonstration was going on about 150 yards away and the Army moved in to break it up. According to the girl's father all the soldiers but one fired into the air. He says the other soldier aimed carefully at the rooftop and hit his daughter.

These, and other incidents, such as the fatal wounding of an 18-year-old cripple in Jenin on Monday, have convinced Palestinians that the "get-tough" policy is more than just words.

Economic troubles chill festive Bonn

From Richard Owen Bonn

Down on the cobbled Münsterplatz, in the heart of Bonn's old town, the traditional Christmas market is in full swing, with stalls selling *Gilchwein*, tree decorations and gingerbread.

A mile away, in the plate-glass government and Bundestag (Parliament) complex on the banks of the Rhine, the atmosphere is rather less jolly. It is less jolly still in the depressed industrial heartland of the Ruhr, where a wave of strikes and social unrest have caused profound unease in this well-ordered society.

West Germany is approaching 1988 in a mood of anxiety and introspection. The country still has Europe's most powerful and prosperous economy, and even the hard-pressed farmers are regarded with envy by some other Europeans. Workers laid off by Krupp, the giant steel firm in the Ruhr — in many ways a symbol of the malaise — pose for photographs meant to convey their hardship in front of houses which look solid enough and have immaculate Volkswagens outside.

None the less, West Germany has been shaken this year by political and economic upheavals that arouse memories of the 1920s and 1930s, however remote that age may be from the modern Federal Republic. This has to do partly with political scandal, above

all the strange death of Herr Uwe Barschel, the former Prime Minister in Schleswig-Holstein.

But the underlying issue is the economy, which has been dealt an additional blow by the stock market crash and the dollar's slide. The much-vanted West German system of

Bonn — Herr Martin Bangemann, the West German Economics Minister, has let it be known that he is a candidate to succeed M Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission in Brussels, according to West German officials. M Delors is due to retire at the end of 1988. His mandate could be renewed for two years, but he has shown interest in returning to active French politics.

worker participation in companies now tends to be regarded as a cumbersome hindrance. Inflation and unemployment in an economy which used to be regarded as a model for Europe are creeping up, despite Chancellor Kohl's efforts to contain them.

In agriculture, Herr Ignaz Kiechle, the Farm Minister, complains that 16,000 West German farmers have gone to the wall because of EEC cutbacks. Half of the remaining 700,000 farmers have other jobs, but Herr Kiechle is fiercely determined to protect the livelihoods of the other half, many of them small tenant

farmers. This does not augur well for Germany's forthcoming EEC presidency, when farm reform will be the main issue. The centre-right coalition in Bonn is terrified of any measure that antagonizes the farmers, because of the powerful rural vote in forthcoming local elections in Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein.

But it is the decline of the great iron and steel plants in towns such as Rheinfelden and Duisburg which has caused the greatest shock, producing unrest on a scale almost unheard of in post-war Germany. *Quick*, the weekly magazine that normally has a pretty girl on its cover, this week carried the haunted faces of sacked Krupp workers overlaid with the word "Angst". As with the miners' strike in Britain, the issue is about both the decline of an industry and the deaths of communities supported by it.

Hundreds of thousands of steelworkers and miners in the Ruhr valley have taken to the streets in tense demonstrations. At one point, protesters broke into the Krupp boardroom at Bochum. In another incident, they entered the Krupp family headquarters, the mock-Renaissance Villa Hugel at Essen, starting at the priceless tapestries and paintings on the walls in a scene reminiscent of the storming of the Winter Palace.

Like other European steel in-

dustries, the Ruhr has been hit by cheap foreign competition. There is now an average 20 per cent unemployment rate in the once mighty industrial heartland, with a corresponding anger among the jobless young. Bonn maintains that unfair EEC steel quotas contribute to the problem.

To add to Chancellor Kohl's worries, there is little sign that the West German economy is responding to Bonn's efforts to answer demands from other Western countries to stimulate domestic demand as a contribution to reducing trade imbalances.

Earlier this month Herr Martin Bangemann, the Economics Minister, and Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the Finance Minister, jointly announced a programme of investment credits and tax reforms to foster growth. But Herr Stoltenberg, formerly a Prime Minister in Schleswig-Holstein, is embroiled in the Barschel affair, and his package of tax cuts for 1990 is running into trouble within the Bonn coalition.

The German Economics Institute last week published an end-of-year forecast suggesting that growth in the domestic economy would be less than 1 per cent next year, rather than the modest 2 to 3 per cent hoped for by the Government. That observers say could put further pressure on the Bundesbank to ease the situation by further cutting interest rates.

Japan quietly ponders how to bury a symbolic emperor

From David Watts, Tokyo

To complete the process of Emperor Hirohito's return to his official duties, Japan is enmeshed in a quiet but far-reaching debate over how the man who was once a god but who is now merely a symbol of the state should be buried when he dies.

The Emperor, aged 86, recently had intestinal surgery and the Crown Prince had been performing his official duties until Tuesday when he resumed signing documents. However, his traditional New Year appearances on the palace balcony will be curtailed.

When the last Emperor, Taisho, was buried and his successor, Hirohito, enthroned there was nothing ambivalent about it. Emperor Taisho died on Christmas Eve 1926, as head of state and of the national religion, Shinto. Burial ceremonies, which saw the streets of Tokyo dusted with white sand and millions turned out to pay their respects, lasted into February of the next year.

status as head of state or something approaching it. Some on the right would like to exploit the Emperor's death to restore imperial power and see the conduct of the inevitable funeral as crucial to the process.

The Emperor's recent surgery and hints that the people are not being told the whole truth about his seriousness have revived debate in *Bungei Shunju*, a respected monthly magazine which is sometimes used to fly kites on national issues, about how the funeral of the Emperor and the subsequent ceremonies are to be organized.

The article favoured the whole funeral and enthrone-ment being conducted at the national level with the enthrone-ment ceremonies public, and thereby closely linked to the government of the day, while calling for respect for the traditional ceremony of *Dajizai*. This, in prewar Japan, laid out minutely the procedures to be followed.

Assassination seen as Sinhalese extremists' reply to President's tough warning

Sri Lanka gunman kills chairman of Jayewardene party

The chairman of Sri Lanka's ruling United National Party and three others were shot dead by a gunman yesterday in the Colombo suburb of Wellawatte.

Mr Harsha Abeywardene, the UNP chairman, his bodyguard, driver and a servant were killed when a man pulled out an automatic weapon near Hampden Lane and shot repeatedly at their white Hyundai car as they travelled to the party head office. The gunman escaped on a bicycle.

Witnesses said that two men arrived at a cycle shop about 8.30am yesterday, saying their machine needed repairs. A wooden box, carried on the handle bars, was put at the side of the road.

At about 10am, one of the men crossed over. Soon after, the other pulled out a gun from the box and shot at the approaching car. Police said 18 bullets had been fired.

The gunman had then walked across the road, joined his accomplice and waited to make sure the occupants of the car were dead.

From Vijitha Yapa, Colombo

The two threatened the crowd with a grenade before walking down a lane, grabbing a bicycle from its rider and escaping.

Police suspect the proscribed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna is responsible for the attack. The JVP is composed mainly of youths from the majority Sinhala community, opposed to the Indo-Sri Lankan accord of last July to settle Tamil unrest in Northern and Eastern provinces.

Police say that more than 250 government officials and UNP supporters have been killed by the JVP in the last five months.

The militant group, based in Southern province, is also held responsible for the assassination attempt on President Jayewardene and his colleagues in Parliament on August 18, which killed two people and injured six Cabinet ministers.

The assassination of Mr Abeywardene is seen as a direct reply to the President's remarks over the weekend in Southern province, where he

called the JVP "brutes" and said that the Army and police would wipe out the organization in two to three weeks.

He said that legislation would be brought before Parliament to indemnify the armed forces for any action taken against the terrorists. The JVP would be dealt with not by the ballot, but by the bullet.

Police estimate that the JVP has a hard core of 2,000 members. The party led an insurrection in 1971 against the Government of Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike which was crushed brutally, and more than 10,000 young supporters are said to have been killed.

The leaders, who were arrested and convicted, were freed by President Jayewardene in 1978. They took part in elections to local bodies and their leader, Mr Rohana Wijeweera, unsuccessfully contested the presidential campaign in 1982. Soon after the Government decided to hold a referendum to extend the life of the Parliament by



Fingerprint check: Sri Lankan detectives examining the bicycle used by the killer and his accomplice in yesterday's attack.

another six years, the JVP went underground. In July 1983, the party was blamed for the anti-Tamil riots in the island and proscribed. The JVP has not claimed respon-

sibility for any of the recent killings, including the murder this month of Superintendent Terrence Perera, the head of the police anti-subversion division. The Sri Lanka Cabinet

was meeting when told of Mr. Abeywardene's killing. A senior Cabinet member said later that the proscription of the JVP must be lifted and the 12.5 per cent minimum of

votes needed in future elections under the proportional representation system must be changed, or radical and extremist political groups would be disenfranchised.

Famine and drought cast shadow over Christmas

Ethiopia to relax Marxist grip on food policy

From Paul Valley
Addis Ababa

There are signs in Ethiopia that the Government may at last be about to alter the Marxist agricultural policies which have kept food production low even in those more fertile regions not afflicted by recurring drought.

Tight state control over the growth and sale of cereals, along with policies which discourage peasant farmers from producing more, have for the past decade been a significant obstacle to breaking the vicious circle of famine which has killed hundreds of thousands.

Western aid officials here acknowledge that the main causes of famine — a change in the rainfall pattern, the unremitting degradation of the environment, and an increasing population — are largely beyond the control of the Government. But domestic agricultural policies based on Soviet collectivization and state marketing have aggravated the situation.

In March last year the Ethiopian

Government signed an agreement with the European Community in which, in exchange for 230 million ECUs (£157 million), it agreed to pay more to peasant farmers for their crops to encourage them to grow more and allow them to sell their surpluses on the free market. So far the Ethiopian Politburo has refused to implement the agreement.

As a result most of the money is being withheld, along with \$70 million (£38 million) for agricultural development by the World Bank.

But now, according to Mr Benno Haffner, the European Community's delegate in Addis Ababa, the changes are to be implemented.

"We have a taskforce and are negotiating with the Government," he told *The Times* during a meeting in Mekele, the capital of the province of Tigré, the epicentre of the famine.

"We have signals that before the next harvest the Government will allow a certain liberalization of grain pricing and of marketing from surplus areas. They have indicated

that they will move on all the main policies."

There are three main problems with the present system under which a state body, the Agricultural Marketing Corporation, in an attempt to secure large supplies of cheap grain for the military and urban populations tells each peasant how much food it requires each year and unilaterally fixes the price.

The prices have been virtually unaltered since 1979; the same price is paid everywhere in the country, irrespective of transport costs, thus discouraging production in distant regions even though these may be more fertile. The private trading of surplus grain is restricted, as is the movement of grain from surplus to deficit regions, which has created artificial price differentials.

Under the agreement with the EEC the Government has pledged to alter these policies. It has also conceded the need for land-use reform to restore incentive to farmers who, at present, are unenthusiastic about long-term improvements

to land which they may not be allocated next year.

More consumer goods (candles, razor blades and soap) are to be made available in rural areas so that peasants have something to buy with their additional cash. And the programme also emphasizes the need for investment in peasant agriculture which occupies 84 per cent of the population; since 1982 state farms have absorbed 43 per cent of all official investment and are paid more than peasant farmers for the same crops though they produce only 6 per cent of output.

The main question for the large aid donors is how extensive will the Government adjustments be? Ethiopian officials privately acknowledge the need for reform but none is prepared to hazard a guess. The World Bank is calling on the AMC to limit its purchases to 255,000 tonnes and to pay farmers in the first year 60 per cent and in the second year 80 per cent of the import parity price.

The representative of one large donor said: "Without reforms large-

scale development money would be wasted." In 1988 Ethiopia will need more than a million tonnes of food aid. Even in a good year the shortfall between consumption and production is 350,000 tons. By the year 2,000 population growth is expected to make that gap almost two million tonnes. In such a context immediate reform is essential.

● MAPUTO: Deliveries of foreign food aid to help millions of people affected by drought and war in Mozambique have fallen seriously behind schedule, according to the Government (Reuters reports).

A government report said there had been long delays in shipments from Zimbabwe, the source of 65 per cent of the maize due to reach Mozambique. Aid agencies and the Government estimate Mozambique should receive about 500,000 tonnes of cereals in aid in the current year but will still be short of 330,000 tonnes. A UN report said only a quarter of the expected maize had arrived from Zimbabwe between May and September.

Zimbabwe accord

Unity pact raises hopes for peace in Matabeleland

From Jan Kasah, Harare

Zimbabweans ranging from church organizations to the white farmers' union are waiting anxiously for developments in the country's radically altered political scene.

The unity accord signed on Tuesday by Mr Robert Mugabe, leader of the ruling Zanu (PF) party, and Mr Joshua Nkomo, head of the former opposition party, Zapu, promises dramatic relief for the nation.

It may presage an end to five years of crippling insurgency in the western provinces of Matabeleland and a cessation of the antagonism between the two parties, which has claimed thousands of lives.

Mr Michael Auret, chairman of the Roman Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, which spoke out against security force atrocities in Matabeleland in 1983, said yesterday that he hoped the pact would usher in a "new era" of tolerance for ethnic and religious minorities in Zimbabwe.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who became the country's ostensible leader for 10 months immediately before independence in 1980, said: "My prayer is they will make it genuine and make it work."

Mr Ian Smith, the former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, said that he believed the Matabele people had "an anxiety feeling in their stomachs that their leaders are going to betray them," and added, "My fear is that this won't have much effect."

Mr Bob Rutherford, president of the Commercial Farmers Union, 66 of whose members and their families have been killed by guerrillas since the start of the insurgency, said the union "greatly welcomes" the accord, particularly the reported intention by all concerned for immediate and rigorous steps to be taken to eliminate the insecurity and violence in Matabeleland.

● A prodigious amount remains to be done by Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo before the accord can be seen to have brought in a new era of tolerance ●

But a prodigious amount remains to be done by Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo before the pact can be seen to be working, particularly the announcement of measures on which depend the pact's acceptability to the two million people of western Zimbabwe.

Mr Nkomo appears to have signed away his party's rights. The unity agreement suggests that he has surrendered to Mr Mugabe and is merely joining the dominant governing party.

But Mr Nkomo yesterday cautioned against over-hasty analysis of the 10 points of the pact.

Mr Mugabe is expected to announce the enlargement by a third of each of his party's two main bodies, the 15-member Politburo and the 90-member Central Committee, with the new positions going to Zapu executives. The allocation is regarded as a generous one to an organization whose representatives in

Ugandans protest over move by Kenya

Kampala (Reuters) — Fifty thousand demonstrators marched through Kampala yesterday to protest against what Uganda said were moves by Kenya to isolate this landlocked country after border clashes last week.

The protest came as Kenya announced that it was withdrawing more diplomats from its High Commission here.

Asylum bid

Delhi (Reuters) — A Soviet scientist missing from a tour group here since last week is in the Australian High Commission seeking political asylum.

Panda killers

Hong Kong (Reuters) — Twenty-six men have been jailed for killing and skinning six giant pandas.

Riot pardons

Panama City (AP) — President Delvalle of Panama issued Christmas pardons for 90 men and women involved in rioting earlier in the year to protest at the domination by the military of his Government.

Smoking ban

Tokyo (AFP) — Smoking is to be banned in Tokyo underground stations as a result of the London Kings Cross fire

Crisis in arid Rajasthan

The stench of dead cattle pervades 'land of kings'

From Michael Hamlyn, Jodhpur

In an arid landscape under a relentlessly blue sky, gaunt white cattle mournfully chew sugar-cane leaves. Women in the brilliant dress of Rajasthan, India's western "land of kings", hack earnestly at the soil, building an embankment for famine-relief wages.

Only two ragged puppies seem remotely cheerful, romping over the carcass of a cow long dead. The worst drought in memory is afflicting the north and west of India, but in Rajasthan the people are enduring their fourth, or in some parts fifth, successive failure of annual rains.

"This year, 50 per cent of the cattle will die," Mr Ram Narayan Mian, the collector of Ajmer, predicts. He is the most senior government official in the district. "If the next monsoon also fails 25 per cent of the people will die, too." A traveller from Jaisalmer, the golden-walled city in the bleak Thar Desert, says: "The most remarkable thing is the stench... the smell of the dead cattle."

Rajasthan is at the heart of a dry place. Occupying 11 per cent of the land area of India, it has 5 per cent of the population, but only one per cent of the water resources. The annual rainfall generally averages out at around 27 inches in Rajasthan, it is rather more than 35 inches in the average for the past four years has been 11 inches, with the little rain there has been mainly falling in the east.

In the west no crops are growing. The fields stand nearly ploughed and harrowed, but bare. Spiny acacias are the only green to be seen. These fields can, in a good year, provide 18 months' worth of millet for the staple country-style bread. But the last good year was 1983. In 1984, the reservoirs and the wells were full and crops were grown. But now the people have eaten their stores.

The reservoirs are running dry. The beautiful Ana Sagar lake, in the heart of Ajmer, is a drab sea of sand. Pushkar lake, where each year hundreds of thousands of pilgrims immerse themselves at the autumn full moon, will be dry by summer. Ramgarh

dam, where in 1982 the Asian Games aquatics events were held, is dry.

In Jodhpur, at the gateway to the great Western Desert, there is less than a week's water left in the puddles at the bottom of the Jawai dam, constructed in the 1920s for his city of 200,000 people. Now there are 700,000 inhabitants and it has not been enough. Mr G.L. Mathur, the chief water engineer at Jodhpur, is being driven to all manner of devices to try to maintain supplies. Each night, a train brings in 200,000 gallons from the Pipar reservoir, 30 miles away. Digging new wells is being carried out on a war footing, even though the quality of Jodhpur's underground water is poor.

Mr Mathur reckons that the minimum supply the city needs is 20 million gallons a day. By putting in hand every possible expedient, he is keeping up a supply of seven million gallons. The industrial water users have had to shut up shop, with the textile and dyeing industries being especially badly hit. New construction work is banned.

"The situation will become all the more grave in the next one month," Mr Mathur said. In that time, energetic work is being done to complete a new pipeline to bring 4.5 million gallons from Rampara, 15 miles away. It is due to be completed now. Twenty tube-wells have been sunk in a village 22 miles away and a pipeline is due to bring another two million gallons from there. Another 2.5 million gallons will come by the end of February from a different set of wells being sunk 30 miles away. There will be few train trips daily.

While the townsfolk suffer from thirst, the situation in the countryside is more dire. In the desert region extending west from here to the Pakistani border, the herdsman

has nothing to feed their animals, and no income to buy fodder. They are eventually driven to abandon their charges and move to town to seek work or find jobs on the famine-relief schemes.

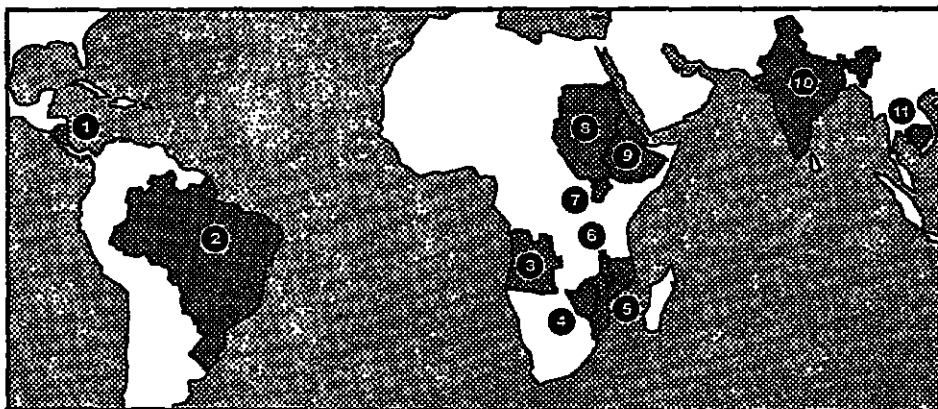
But there is some hope. A vast programme of fodder imports is being organized by a non-governmental organization of local businessmen. Lorries, 1,850 of them, each carrying 10 tons or so, ferry fodder from neighbouring Haryana, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. The transport costs — a vast sum — are met by the Government and the fodder is sold at cost. The committee was set up at the beginning of the year to take emergency measures to last until the rains were due in June. They are still at work.

The same businessmen's Famine Assistance Committee has set up 82 cattle camps across the worst-affected districts, where the abandoned cows are sheltered and fed. The starving animals are given a mixture of chopped sugar cane and wheat chaff, an unusual diet which many find difficult, and nursed back to some kind of health. "We cannot hope to save them all," Mr G.C. Kamnaga, the head of a group of metal manufacturers and president of the committee, said.

Mr Tara Ram, aged 50, is an angular grey-moustached farmer, living 18 miles out of town. He watched as his cows died one by one. His wife sold her jewellery to buy fodder and food for the family — nearly two ounces of gold, and nearly 12 ounces of silver. The cash kept them going for two years.

But once that had gone, Mr Ram remarked, "I didn't have the money to carry on." He brought his three surviving cows to the cattle camp, and took work there. Now he earns 12 rupees (around 50 pence) a day, and he and his family eke a bare existence. "In my life I have never seen such conditions," he said. "I saw famine 20 years back, but not like this."

Mr Kamnaga believes that "to fight against Nature is very, very difficult". Saturday: The human factor



Focus on suffering

The impoverished millions

By Alexander Johnson

As people in the industrialized West tuck into their Christmas dinners, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 400 million men, women and children worldwide will go without adequate nourishment. The number of those who face actual starvation is less than it has been, however, thanks largely to the improvement in recent years in the situation in India and China, but many areas are still critically short of food.

1. In Nicaragua a combination of drought and war has led to diminishing food stocks in the outlying areas. Food and Agriculture Organization estimates show this year's cereal harvest dramatically down on last year. The Government has declared a national food emergency and appealed for relief supplies.

2. In north-east Brazil drought has been exacerbated by changes in the land-tenure system which have forced peasants on to marginal land where they face severe food shortages. There have been 70 per cent crop failures in 10 north-eastern states, affecting about 20 million people over an area of 425,000 square miles.

3. In Angola, chaos caused by the war between UNITA rebels and the government forces has displaced 690,000 people and caused food shortages for up to a million.

4. The rains have now come to Zimbabwe, but there are still serious food shortages in Matabeleland, through drought, and in the province of Masvingo because of the influx of refugees from adjacent Mozambique.

5. In Mozambique, the drought is compounded by the civil war between the forces of Renamo and Frelimo, which has driven the country. Oxfam says that between four and four-and-a-half million people are displaced and have no natural source of food.

6. Even Malawi, normally regarded as one of the most agriculturally bountiful countries in Africa, has been importing food this year because of damage by pests to crops in the central region.

7. Drought has also had a destructive effect on the crops of Uganda, affecting about half a million people in the north-eastern province of Karamoja.

8. In the Sudan, drought has hit about half a million people in the north of the country, in the Darfur and Kordofan provinces in the Red Sea area bordering on Ethiopia. Almost all of the south of the country has been afflicted by the long-running ethnic war between Bantu and Arab groups, depriving about another half a million people of food.

9. In Ethiopia, drought has caused failure of the crucial maize and sorghum crops in the provinces of Eritrea, Welo, Hararge, Sudano and Tigré. An estimated 5.2 million are severely affected by inadequate food supplies.

10. In India, prudent husbanding of huge agricultural surpluses in recent years means that food shortages in the provinces of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are not proving as disastrous as they might otherwise have been. Even so, the shortages are badly affecting the nutrition of at least 100 million people, according to Oxfam estimates.

11. In Cambodia, which has had poor rice harvests because of dry weather, normally vulnerable groups and subsistence farmers are extremely short of staple food.

Police set up roadblocks to prevent people trying to cross the flooded river, and the railway line was expected to be closed for three to four days.

The route has been in heavy use as an exit from the country since South African officials began a slowdown at other border posts. The officials

leaving more than 30 cars stranded on either side.

Despite problems caused by the downturn, the rain was welcomed in the southern African country, which has suffered from six years of drought. About a million of the nation's three million cattle have died during the drought.

have said they are looking for anti-government guerrillas trying to infiltrate.

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Those who carp at our best-known carol should beware — as George Hill finds, there is more to its hero than meets the ear

Behind those footprints

If Good King Wenceslas had not existed, it would have been necessary to invent him. In fact he did exist, but all the same people have found it necessary to invent him at several stages of history. Our own white-bearded, gift-toting Santa Claus avatar is one of the more recent and improbable of these inventions. If Wenceslas really had a white beard, a saintly miracle must have been involved, for he died a martyr's death when about 22 years old.

In his native Czechoslovakia, of which he is patron saint, he is generally represented as an idealized young knight. He was a figure of real historical significance in the cloudy 10th century, when Bohemia was just emerging from paganism. He fell victim to family infighting, and his name carries overtones of political controversy to this day. Strictly speaking, he was not even a king, but a mere duke, or a prince at best. There were several King Wenceslases in Bohemia later in the Middle Ages, but none of them was good.

As for his mother, she was bad. The duchess Dragomira was an adherent of the old Slavic paganism. This seems to have involved a propitiatory relationship with a rather rudimentary pantheon of irritable nature-spirits and household goblins — including Bannik, a god of the bath-house, who told Wenceslas's Christian father died while he was still a child, and he was sent — perhaps for his own safety — to be brought up by his Christian grandmother, Ludmilla, while Dragomira governed as regent and brought up his brother Boleslav as a pagan.

By some accounts, Boleslav was the elder brother. By other accounts he and his mother were power-greedy reactionaries who eventually succeeded in having Ludmilla murdered as she prayed. At all events, it was Wenceslas — or Vaclav in his native tongue — who secured the dukedom when he grew up in about 925 — either by right or by winning the favour of the German emperor, a powerful neighbour who would naturally be inclined to prefer a Christian.

Wenceslas instituted an energetic programme of Christianization, and set out to ensure his own dominance over the unruly chief-

THE TIMES PROFILE

KING WENCESLAS

tains of Bohemia, ruthlessly where necessary. He instituted a coinage and invited priests in as teachers. But his time was short, for in 929 Boleslav conspired with dissident nobles and treacherously murdered him at church under a guarantee of safe conduct.

The wounds made by all the other assassins miraculously closed up, the legend says, but the one made by Boleslav remained open. Unnerved by reports of miracles at his brother's tomb — or alternatively by a punitive expedition said to have been sent by the Emperor to avenge his vassal's murder — Boleslav had a rapid change of heart and in 932 had the saint's remains installed in a princely shrine in Prague. From then on, Bohemia was irrevocably Christian.

Our own Wenceslas of the thermal footprints is an almost but not quite unrecognizable reworking of this complex political figure. He dates back only as far as a strenuous Victorian polymath, the Rev J.M. Neale, who wrote single-handed a large proportion of "Hymns Ancient and Modern" and much else, including a now little-used 1866 collection of "Hymns for Use During the Candle-Plague".

The Christmas carol was almost extinct in his time. A good part of the traditional English Christmas was invented outright by the Victorians: with the Christmas carol they exercised a judicious combination of invention and re-invention. Neale contributed in 1853 to the first popular collection of carols, which included some tidied-up medieval examples and some entirely modern ones. He wrote his pretend-naïve ballad of "Wenceslas" to the tune of a Latin spring carol which he had found in a rare Swedish carol-book of the 16th century.

Revived in this form, Wenceslas has been murdered afresh by bands of carol-singers on

countless doorsteps every Christmas ever since. Neale's masterpiece has had a consistently bad press from the cognoscenti, but this only shows how little the cognoscenti matter. It smacked too much of saint-worship and Justification by Works for the evangelicals (Neale himself was so strongly on the High-Church side that he was sometimes the victim of what his biographer calls "mob violence"). As for the musicologists, especially the folk-song lobby, their contempt has been boundless. The editors of the *Oxford Book of Carols* look forward to the day when it might be dropped altogether.

It never will be. Our relationship with the carol was sealed in a way which transcends any questions of aesthetics or doctrine long before any of us learned to tie our own shoelaces. Besides, it is ideally adapted for the present-day Christmas, which requires a cast of snowmen, red-nosed reindeer, and the like — figures which skirt round the embarrassing topic of incarnation. The carol combines snow, goodwill and olden times, and contrives an ambience of holiness without mentioning God. Also, the tune is a good one. And there is something quaint about the footprint miracle, faintly reminiscent as it is of Baked Alaska.

Neale seems to have thought this up himself. No other saint is recorded as having left warm footprints in the snow, a slushy kind of virtue. Scholars commonly assert that Neale invented the episode from start to finish, but medieval wall-paintings in St Vitus's Cathedral in Prague (where the saint's skull is preserved and at intervals ceremoniously crowned with a golden diadem) are said to include scenes where Wenceslas is depicted marching out with bagfuls of goodies for the peasantry. Neale spoke 20 languages "more or less", and was an expert in the liturgies of eastern Europe, so it is possible that he had got wind of a genuine tradition.

He certainly got the page-boy right. He is a prominent and early feature of the tale, and rather more than the embodiment of cold feet depicted in the carol. "His name



'There is something piquant about the footprint miracle, faintly reminiscent of Baked Alaska'

was Podivin, and he appears in records within a century of Wenceslas's death," says Dr Robert Pynsent, of the University of London's School of Slavonic Studies. "He was a very popular figure in legend, because he was not an aristocrat. As the king's close adviser, he helped to establish his populist credentials."

Very much the sort of bright lad, in fact, who would be able to recognize a peasant at a distance by moonlight and know where to find his hovel. In the stories about Podivin, the world of hagiography blends with that of medieval romance. He was away when his

master was murdered, but hurried home, slew one of the murderers and was in turn hanged by Boleslav, at a spot in the woods ("close against the forest fence") where a chapel still stands in his memory.

There is a strong populist element in many of the saint's legends. He helped to mix the mortar for the building of St Vitus's, which he founded. He worked in the fields with the peasants to harvest corn and grapes to make the bread and wine for the Mass. He sounds as if he would have had no trouble finding a league across country in a

snowstorm carrying a takeaway banquet for one.

In addition, he is said to have been an ascetic vowed to celibacy (perhaps a short-sighted indulgence in a hereditary ruler) and to have contemplated retiring to a monastery. He is one of the earliest of the many high-born saints reputed to have worn a hair shirt under their finery.

But these tales do not necessarily tell us much about what he was really like. "What actually happened was not the point in the accounts of the lives of saints like Wenceslas," says the Very Reverend Professor Henry Chadwick, Master of Peterhouse, Cambridge. "People wanted to provide images expressing what they felt about the sanctity of the saint concerned, and so these writings provide incomparable evidence of how people thought and felt. It is the harmonies of the name that are important rather than the history — and in Wenceslas's case, his importance is as a symbol of national independence."

BIOGRAPHY

- c. 907: born, at Stochov or Libusin, near Prague, son of Duke Wenceslas.
- c. 921-5: Took control of the country from his mother Dragomira.
- c. 928: Acknowledged supremacy of German King Henry the Fowler.
- Sept 28, 928: Murdered by his pagan brother Boleslav.
- c. 932: Boleslav, now a Christian, has Wenceslas's bones transferred to Prague.
- 967: Death of Boleslav.
- 1582: Tune of carol first appears, in Sweden, as "Tänns adest bländad" ("The time of flowers is here again").
- 1853: English words of carol first published, written by the Rev J.M. Neale.

He was certainly cast in that role in a curious compilation of bogus medieval patriotic ballads and romances which appeared in the early 1800s, and had an immense influence on Czech national art before it was conclusively discredited in the 1890s — long after the time of Neale, who may have known of it.

But there is something ambiguous about Wenceslas as a national hero. There is a real case for regarding Boleslav as an anti-German patriot, though one who accepted the inevitable in the end. In the religious wars of the Reformation, Catholic armies singing hymns to Wenceslas crushed Czech Protestantism and almost extinguished Czech identity.

Today the Communist authorities in Czechoslovakia are cool towards the saint, for all his populist pretensions, because he looked west instead of east. The Nazi invaders whom they displaced looked favourably on the cult of a saint who had made the submission to Germany.

In the 1968 "Prague Spring", the protesters against the invading Soviet tanks gathered in St Wenceslas Square in Prague, and they too looked west instead of east. But the saint himself never became a symbol of their struggle — as he might have done in the more devout climate of Poland, next door.

Yet a ruler who secured a measure of independence and unity — if only briefly — for a nation divided within, and dwarfed by powerful neighbours, is not an irrelevant saint for a country still in much the same predicament 1,000 years later. And while there is not the slightest evidence that he ever did look out of his castle on the feast of Stephen, or go stamping out the night in hot wellingtons with a sackful of provisions on his shoulders and only a boy for bodyguard — no one can positively say that he didn't.

Quiz of the year 1987

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Sssh! It's Leonardo

Christmas is when Leonardo da Vinci's "Virgin and Child with Saint Anne and the infant St John", otherwise known as "The Leonardo Cartoon", usually comes into its own at the National Gallery. Showing the two women talking as the children play, it is the classic vision of maternal bliss, representing as it does peace and love.

This year, however, it is nowhere to be seen. The Cartoon was punctured with shotgun pellets in July and now it languishes out of public view beneath a tent of plastic sheeting, waiting to be repaired.

After months of secret deliberations, the National Gallery decided in mid November how it will be restored, but still there has been no public announcement. Inquiries are brushed aside; any publicity, I am told, might encourage other unbidden members of the public to go on the rampage.

But it should be the other way round. The public has a right to ask questions both about security — how it came about that Robert Cambridge (sent to Broadmoor last week) was able to smuggle a shot-gun into the museum — and about the choice of treatments open to the damaged masterpiece. As Neil MacGregor, the Gallery's director, said himself after the attack, it is an object which "in a very special sense belongs to the public", having been saved for the nation in 1962 by an £800,000 public appeal.

Conservation work is traditionally secretive. This is more understandable in the commercial world, where

many a valuable Van Dyck lurks behind the closed but relatively insecure doors of some suburban restorer. But there is another reason: financial cannibals. Clients are not keen for the world to know that half the painting's surface came off with a touch of the restorer's swab. They may instruct him to cover up the damage as soon as possible in order to protect their investment.

Even this approach is changing today, with the arrival of what we can call the "BUFA mentality". Here, prospective buyers insist on having a "medical" report on what they are about to buy, requiring proof as to provenance and condition.

It is arguable that in the private sector, the owner has a right to do what he wants with his own property. But it is a different matter when art is owned by the nation. To be fair, the National Gallery does publish detailed analyses of its restoration projects in its annual Technical Bulletin, but the information comes out years after the event, and in very specialist form. What is needed is a public forum about the Cartoon, which in itself offers a restoration challenge.

It is time the gallery came clean about the Cartoon, and lifted its shroud of secrecy regarding conservation.

The number of exit visas granted to Russian Jews has increased dramatically this year: 7,000 compared with 914 in 1986; but it is still far from approaching the high-point of 1979, when more than 51,000 people were allowed to leave. Jewish organizations in this country believe that as many as 500,000 would emigrate if they could get permission.

For the Leonardo Cartoon is a hybrid. It has some of the characteristics of a painting (a canvas backing badly applied in the late 17th century) but most of a drawing — the top surface comprises eight sheets of paper pasted together by the artist, who then drew on top with charcoal and chalk highlights. Should it undergo a full overhaul — restoring the canvas, and replacing it with more stable Japanese paper, made from the pulp of mulberry trees — or simply undergo cosmetic treatment? This would entail patching up the wound which extends the full width of the Virgin's chest, and is shaped like the vicious kick from a horse.

Being a gallery aimed exclusively to paintings, the National has no experience of paper conservation, and so has been seeking the help of outside restorers, from the V & A, Tate Gallery, Royal Collection and the British Museum.

Whereas the restoration of oil paintings is nearly as old as the art form, paper restoration is a new discipline — another justification for open discussion.

In fact, three weeks ago, the gallery did appoint Eric Haring, Chief Restorer at the British Museum, to restore the Cartoon, but a press statement is not due until next year. Last week the British Museum acknowledged this fact, but the National Gallery refused to confirm it.

It is time the gallery came clean about the Cartoon, and lifted its shroud of secrecy regarding conservation.

Article will appear on Wednesday next week.



Paper work: National Gallery chief restorer Martin Wyed examines the damaged Cartoon

Christmas was once a time for gestures of good will by governments: amnesties were declared, prisoners were freed. But as torture and the abuse of human rights have become endemic, such gestures have come to be purely coincidental.

This month has seen the release of a number of people who did not expect their freedom. The most remarkable is Captain Napoleon Ortizgoza, Latin America's longest serving prisoner of conscience, who has spent 25 years, much of it in solitary confinement, in a Paraguayan jail, for the alleged murder of a military cadet.

At the time of his arrest, Ortizgoza had set himself up as a political opponent to General Alfredo Stroessner, who took control of the country in a coup in 1954. During his time in prison, Ortizgoza is known to have been severely tortured and to have repeatedly tried to commit suicide. This week, according to a report from Reuters, he was released from jail but confined to the town of San Estanislao, 150 miles from the capital.

This week also saw the release of five alleged Marxists in Singapore, held without trial since June. They were part of a group of 22 people, including 10 Roman Catholic church workers, arrested in the early summer for alleged involvement in a plot to overthrow the Government.

Releases in the Soviet Union continue, both from prison camps and among the *refuseniks*. Lev Shapiro, an engineer who has waited 17 years to join his parents in Israel, heard last week that he and his family are to be allowed to emigrate. Shapiro has been one of the central figures of the Leningrad *refusenik* community, both his children grew up "in refusal". It was a letter to Gorbachev from his nine-year-old daughter Naomi, published in *The Times* earlier this month, that is thought to have secured the family's release.

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Calls for release



Freed: Napoleon Ortizgoza

Keston College, the research centre which studies religion in Eastern Europe, has 240 religious prisoners of conscience in the USSR on its books — half the number that it had at the same time last year.

Yet the Rev Michael Bordeaux, the director, feels that the promise of the early months of 1987 has not been fulfilled. "In August the chairman of the Soviet's Council For Religious Affairs, Konstantin Kharchev, let it be understood that there could be an amnesty for all religious prisoners and that he was prepared to negotiate on in-

dividual names. We have heard nothing more."

Other human rights organizations also feel that over-concentration on the abuses in the two most publicized areas — Sri Lanka and the Soviet Union — has meant that the unceasing persecution in other parts of the world seems to get forgotten. While individual releases from Moscow are chronicled widely, little note is taken of the deterioration of human rights in Kenya, the growth of restrictions on the South African press, or the fact that many prisoners throughout the world are never brought to trial.

One of the themes of the 1987 Amnesty International annual report was refugees, the unending flow of people who cross territorial boundaries all over the world in search of safety. Many flee because of war and famine; but others flee because of fear of imprisonment, torture and death.

In the last year, people have fled from Ethiopia, Chad, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea, Angola and South Africa; from El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, Haiti, and Cuba; from Poland, Romania and Spain; from Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon. Too often, the number of refugees is used to justify new restrictions on entry for asylum-seekers, rather than to put pressure on governments to end the human rights abuses that drove so many into exile.

Caroline Moorehead

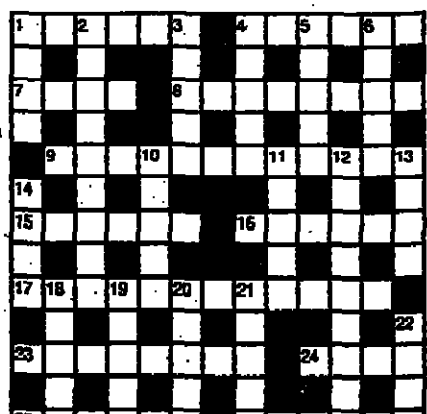
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1447

- ACROSS
- Levish (4-2)
 - Rail (6)
 - Qatar capital (4)
 - Abyssinian (8)
 - Business middleman (12)
 - Erotic (6)
 - Sweet-sounding (6)
 - Sleepwalking (12)
 - Wooded (8)
 - Oral-contraceptive (4)
 - 1 coulomb per second (6)
 - Glowing ashes (6)

DOWN

- Lather (4)
- Hadrian's Roman academy (9)
- Parr (5)
- Loathe (5)
- Prickle (5)
- Parawell (5)
- Cuban dance (5)



- Matching (5)
- Inordinate (9)
- Habitual procedure (6)
- Horrid goddess (4)
- Poppy seed drug (5)
- Grand (5)
- Meet and join (5)
- Unwarranted (5)
- Gain (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1446

- ACROSS: 1 Pembroke; 5 Swot; 9 Voluted; 10 Eveni; 11 Seeps; 12 Vant; 13 Cadet; 15 Clean; 16 Poles; 18 Deuse; 20 Ether; 21 Tail; 22 Carb; 24 Bracing.
- DOWN: 1 Pavlov; 2 Molepsale; 3 Rat; 4 Kidderminster; 6 Whay; 7 Table; 8 Seascope; 11 Standard; 14 Darned; 15 Cicero; 17 Sea dog; 19 Chit; 22 Ice.

HEALTH

Can you survive your family?

Christmas brings out the best – and very worst – in families. Could the season of goodwill be bad for your health and happiness? Liz Gill reports

Our rosy-hued dream of Christmas may in reality turn out to resemble Dante rather than Dickens: families can make the festivities hell.

We cling to the belief that the only way to spend the season is with three generations gathered beside the hearth. The solitary and the pitied and where possible rescued. Nobody must be alone.

Yet at its worst, Christmas with one's nearest and dearest can be the catalyst for all kinds of extreme behaviour, from domestic violence to drug and alcohol abuse. More commonly its strains will trigger such stress-related symptoms as migraines and stomach aches. Even the most placid families seem hard-pressed to get through it all without some sort of upset.

The problem, according to Dr Robin Skynner, a psychiatrist, is the gap between expectation and actuality. "Christmas stirs up all our deepest longings to have a happy family. We have fantasies about the perfect family we should have, and of course all the build-up and the publicity images add to these feelings."

"We also expect to be able to feel very positive towards each other. We will be happier, friendlier, more tolerant. Of course this is fine up to a point, but if one's expectations of oneself and others are too great then there can be disaster, because most families have their imperfections. It's like expecting an absolutely amazing present: when you only get a very good one you're inevitably disappointed."

Skynner believes our modern age is particularly prey to fantasy. "When people went to church more, they were given the other side. The view was that one couldn't expect life to be wonderful all the time. We have tended to change towards unrealistic expectations."

"Another common problem is where parents have suffered a disappointment when they were

small and they want to make it up to their children. So they try too hard, and then feel resentful because the children aren't grateful enough or happy enough or they get bored, like all kids do. Often it's better for the parents to make sure that they have a good time themselves and not to be too self-sacrificing."

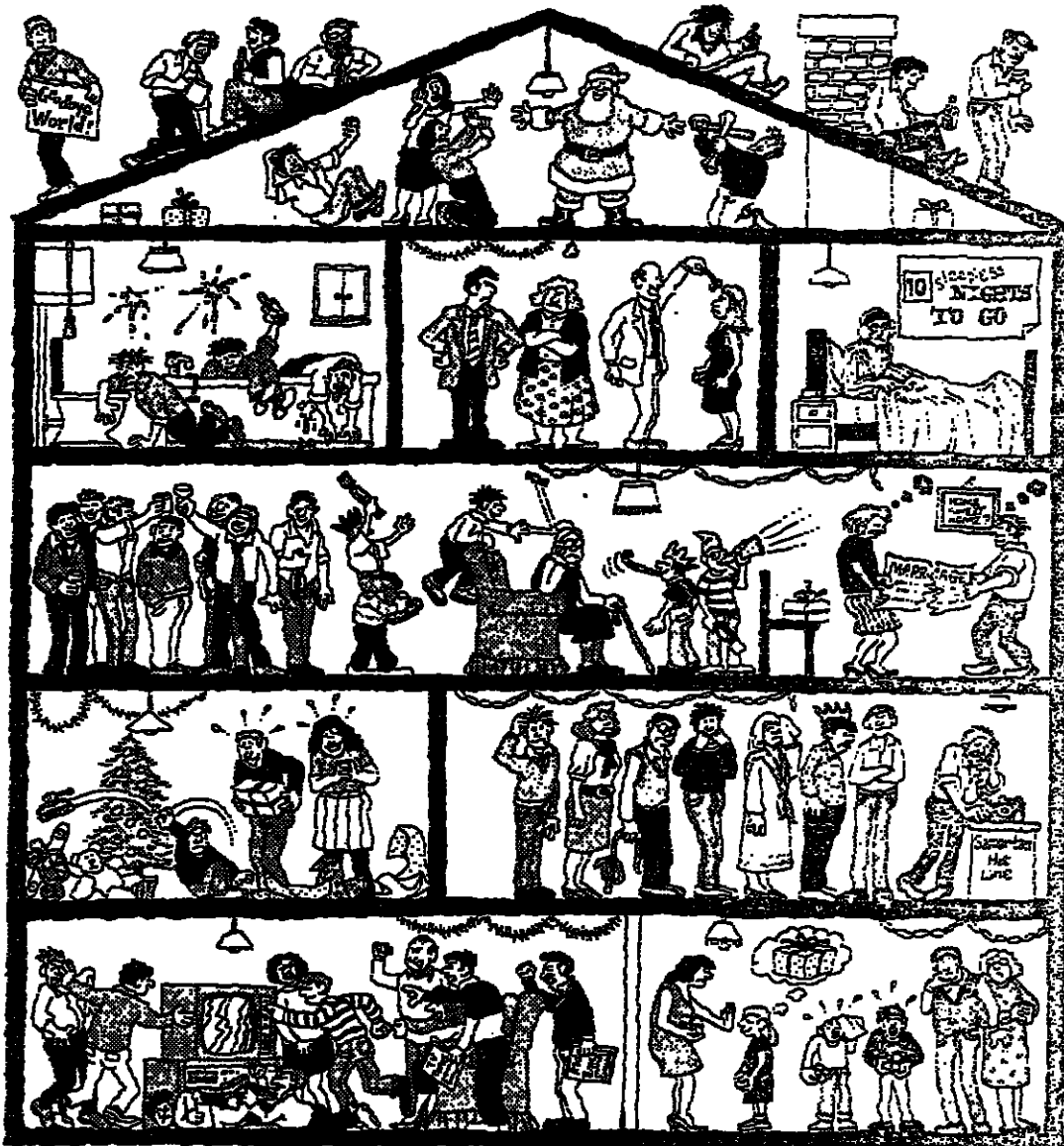
"There are classic Christmas perils: the uncle who always gets too sloshed, the prodigal who returns and promises to turn over a new leaf, the simmering sibling rivalry. Christmas intensifies everything. And it starts earlier and lasts longer. A lot of things work for a short time, but Christmas is a bit like marriage: it goes on for longer than you can keep things under the carpet."

His advice is to take it easy, enjoy the food and presents and what they're worth, be able to escape temporarily without feeling guilty (a walk, a nap, any kind of breather) – and to play games.

"I know we hate them. I always resist but I'm always glad I've been made to play. They release the tension, they're a healthy outlet. After all games allow you to have these evil feelings about your family."

Mrs Judy Hildebrand, a consultant at the Institute of Family Therapy, frequently gets "panic station" signals from clients in the run-up to Christmas. "It generates an incredible amount of tension. Existing difficulties are exacerbated, problems that have been shelved often come up again. People become frantic. They say 'You must tell me what to do. I must sort it out for Christmas'. For instance, in one family there was the big question of whether the child deserved the present in view of his considerable misdemeanours. But of course that is only the tip of what is going on."

Family therapy deals with the individual's problems in the context of the family. The theory, she says, is that one member's distress will affect everyone else. Thus although it may be problems such



as drug abuse, aggression or truancy that prompt an individual referral, therapists like Hildebrand try to work with the whole family wherever possible. The family may unwittingly have contributed to the problem or may unconsciously be maintaining it, but Hildebrand stresses that the system apportions no blame. She would like to see a toning down of Christmas hype, particularly on television.

"It projects such an artificial and unselfish picture, which can be very painful if you are not part of a warm, loving, close-knit, financially secure family. They say they

balance this by showing programmes about down-and-outs, but there are a heck of a lot of families in between."

Dr Judith Trowell, a child psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic in London, deals with a wide range of disturbed behaviour including physical violence, delinquency, depression, solvent abuse and running away from home. She says the disturbed person may be acting as a sort of lightning conductor for much wider family storms. "Family therapy means you don't take the problem at face value but look at the wider context. The difficulties may be

coming from another member of the group or the group as a whole."

She finds the immediate pre-Christmas period a time when trouble flares. "These incidents would probably happen anyway, but Christmas is particularly a time for them to come to a head." Trowell believes that she sees the extreme end of something which affects most families to some extent. "Even something as common as grandparents being over-indulgent with too many gifts or sweets can provoke a clash, or make the parents very up-tight because their house rules are being broken. Coping with Christmas

takes a considerable degree of calmness and maturity. Sometimes it's a help to have an outsider, a neighbour or a friend in the group. It lightens things. We all tend to behave better with strangers."

The Samaritans run a full service over the Christmas period and the number of calls does not diminish. Simon Armon, external relations officer, says: "You can feel isolated in a family crowd. And a lot of jollity, or what appears to be everyone else's conviviality, can make you feel worse."

"People can find themselves thrown together in an extended family in a way they're not used to, and the stresses that generates can be hard to handle. You are required to relate to people you may have some link with but who you don't feel particularly close to, and that's very demanding if things are not good for you. Christmas is such a big deal it focuses on weak spots."

Where families already have particular problems – unemployment, financial troubles, drug addiction or alcoholism – Christmas can be the spark that lights the fuse.

James Ditzler, a psychologist who runs a residential treatment centre, says that social drinking gives the alcoholic an extra excuse at Christmas. "It's acceptable to get plastered at this time of year. The atmosphere affects the drug user, too, who says 'Look, everyone is getting high on what they want, why shouldn't I?' Addicts tend to be idealists and so they feel guilty about what they're doing and use that as further rationalization to keep drinking." But he says that Christmas is also frequently the time when families draw the line and force the addict to seek help. "They remember what happened on previous years and they see it all building up again."

The Marriage Guidance Council sees a substantial increase in the numbers of people seeking help after the holiday. In some areas it is up by 50 per cent. "It can be a crisis time for some families," Zelda West-Meads, its spokeswoman, says. "The holiday lasts a long time nowadays, maybe as long as 10 days, with New Year. Families are flung together, often three generations under the same roof who all want very different things, at a time of year when

you're likely to be stuck indoors. It can be very claustrophobic."

The situation is worse when families have tried to avoid facing their problems during the year by throwing themselves into their work or hobbies. "They've spent very little time together, and then at Christmas they're all together for a long time, drink loosens people's tongues and one thing leads to another." Parties, with all their opportunities for intrigue and jealousy, can be another battle ground.

This "pressure-cooker" effect can lead, West-Meads says, to physical and emotional violence – plus all those stress-related things like sleeplessness, headaches, tummy aches and so on.

Women may come under particular strain because they tend still to shoulder most of the social burden and may find their loyalties torn in different directions – as mother, wife and daughter. "They load themselves up and they feel martyred."

The secret of a reasonably calm Christmas, she says, is planning and negotiation, right down to who watches what on the television – a common source of upset, in the council's experience. "It's no good trying to force teenagers to spend every minute with granny just because she's come to stay. She'd probably appreciate a bit of peace and quiet anyway, and then enjoy the time they do want to spend with her."

"It's a good idea to take a break as a couple, to get away for a while, and you also have to talk about things before they get to explosion point. Tell your partner that your mother might make you teetotal. The trouble is most of us save it all up until we can't stand it any more and that's when feelings are hurt."

Even with all its potential for horrors, the family group is still probably the best way to spend the festive season. West-Meads points out that the recently bereaved or divorced feel their loss most poignantly at this time of year, as do grandparents separated from their grandchildren by a marriage breakdown.

And Skynner, who with John Cleese wrote *Families and How to Survive Them*, points out that Christmas scores only 12 out of a possible 100 on the stress scale. Only minor violations of the law rank lower. "So we shouldn't worry about it too much. The secret is to enjoy what you've got."

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How safe are current methods of birth control – and can women face the future with confidence?

New conceptions of contraception

Family planning is a privilege that we take for granted: major health scares about contraception, so common in the Seventies and earlier this decade, seldom happen now.

Recent reports about women damaged by the Dalkon Shield centred on their chances of getting compensation rather than on the pros and cons of using contraceptive coils, and only muted publicity was given to a recent British study suggesting that women using the Pill for four years before conception had a greatly increased risk of breast cancer.

However, the combined effect of these claims, often accompanied by hysterical claims, can easily erode women's confidence in current methods of birth control. Proof of this is to be found in the statistics which show that sterilization is now the fastest growing form of contraception.

In Britain it is estimated that about 2.5 million couples are surgically sterile. But sterilization has its own "side effects". In a society with a high divorce rate, the risk that people will seek reversals when they meet new partners is high.

Nevertheless Dr John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke family planning centre in London, be-

Sterilization is the fastest growing solution

lieves that sterilization is an extremely useful method of contraception in the over-30s – but for women rather than men. "Women usually know that they don't want more children whatever happens," he says. "Men can't be sure that if they lose their wife through death or divorce, their next wife won't want a child."

But are such extreme measures really necessary? Do women really risk pelvic

inflammatory disease and lost fertility when they use the coil, or cancer when they use the Pill?

Only one type of coil, the notorious Dalkon Shield, has been shown to damage women's reproductive organs, and this IUD was withdrawn in 1974. But some women continued to use it until 1985, when the company finally recommended that all such devices should be removed.

About 10 per cent of women

using modern IUDs give up because of side effects – usually in the form of abdominal cramps and heavy periods. But the drop-out rate is higher among Pill takers. A World Health Organization scientific committee last year judged IUDs to be "safe, sound and reliable". The International Planned Parenthood Federation described the method as a safe, effective, convenient, reversible method for properly selected women. But who are these women?

According to Mrs Walli Bounds, research co-ordinator at the Margaret Pyke centre, the coil is ideal for women in settled relationships. But, she says, the greater the number of sexual partners, the higher the risk of infection: the thread which is attached to the IUD can act as a "ladder" for ascending infections.

The Family Planning Association says that the Pill is still "the number one contraceptive", although it is

declining in popularity. The association advises that it can be taken by non-smokers up to the age of 45, yet the number of women using oral contraceptives declines dramatically from the age of 30 upwards.

Family planners admit that recent scientific reports on the carcinogenic effects of the Pill have tended to confuse the public, and to cancel each other out. Nevertheless, Dr Kim McPherson, one of the authors of the recent Oxford University study linking the Pill with breast cancer, is pessimistic.

According to McPherson's study, Pill-takers have a 2.5 fold increased risk of breast cancer if they use this method for more than four years before conception. The disease is already the greatest cancer killer of women. But his research was based on women taking the higher dose Pills in the early 1970s; whether low dose Pills have a similar effect is not known.

Dr Trevor Powles, a consultant physician and breast cancer specialist at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, believes that women should not be frightened by this. "The Pill really was having the effects which are being claimed, we would be seeing a very dramatic increase in breast cancer by now."

Family planners admit that reports confuse the public

After all, it is nearly 20 years since women started using these high dose Pills.

Ten years ago, researchers were confident that they would soon know whether the Pill caused or protected against cancer. Unfortunately, despite hundreds of studies involving hundreds of thousands of women, the answer continues to elude them.

Ann Kent

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Smiling in despair

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Although the inquest on Dr Gareth Bennett has still to be held, there seems no doubt that he was driven to despair by a combination of the public outcry over his preface in *Crockford's* and by the need to lie in order to maintain the strict rule of anonymity observed by his predecessors and colleagues. Being torn between his abhorrence of telling a series of untruths and his desire to remain loyal to his friends and the tradition of *Crockford's* proved too much for him, but as most people would have survived the furore, it may be assumed that Dr Bennett failed to do so because he was already a hidden depressive.

The old adage that people who talk about committing suicide never do so is totally untrue; almost equally misleading is the belief that everybody who has sustained suicidal thoughts is prepared to broadcast them to all and sundry. For a few people the idea of exhibiting extremes of emotion is both inconsiderate and ill-mannered; they even fail to confide in close friends their feeling of

hopelessness. Even more confusing for the doctor are the so-called "smiling depressives", the men or women who are so keen not to allow their troubles to be intrusive that even as they recount their tales of woe in the consulting room, their faces wear a polite smile and their manner is apologetic rather than despairing.

A few years ago an aristocratic young undergraduate was persuaded by his friends to go, late one night, to one of the psychiatric hospitals in Oxford, where he met the duty doctor and apologetically, politely, and in a totally unemotional way told the doctor that he was going to kill himself. The medical registrar looked the patient up and down, was confused by his smiling countenance, and recommended that he should go home. Instead, he went and laid his head on the railway line. Academics and aristocrats are not the only people to display a stiff upper lip; many obnoxious people are critical of the display of obsessive emotion, and conceal the depth of anguish they may be feeling.

Triple trials

The next generation will have cause to be grateful to those monks and nuns who live in closed religious communities in East Anglia, who have been prepared to leave their normal devotions and other daily tasks to bare their arms for injections of the new triple vaccine which is being produced against three of the common childhood diseases: mumps, measles and rubella (German measles). Fortunately, the clinical trials have revealed no adverse side effects, and next year it is hoped that vaccines will be available for the young children who will follow the path where the holy orders have led. One injection only is needed. All three diseases have serious consequences: despite massive advertising and a well-publicized screening campaign, women are still becoming pregnant without first having had rubella vaccination, so that babies are still being born with severe

congenital defects. Likewise, post-adolescent men are still getting severe orchitis (inflamed swollen testes) with devastating results for their fertility if both testes are involved; and young children are still catching measles, which is so often complicated by pneumonia.

Host with the most

The host who goes through the customary ritual of tasting the wine before filling his guests' glasses may be doing more than saving them from a corked bottle. In a recent letter to *The Lancet* research workers at the University of Surrey have reported that the lead foil around the top of the classic bottles of wine disintegrates over the years, and fragments of lead eventually end up in the first two or three glasses to be poured. It seems that the host, having the first glass, gets the

biggest dose. Fortunately, there seems to be no evidence that anybody has ever been poisoned from this source.

Kiss and tell

Dr John Emslie of the Scottish Communicable Diseases Unit is unlikely to change the well-established pattern of Christmas parties by warning that kissing under the mistletoe can spread infectious mononucleosis (glandular fever). The disease is spread by the Epstein Barr virus, which is particularly apt to strike if the person already has a lowered resistance, perhaps through tiredness induced by a series of late-night parties with heavy drinking.

As well as causing large and painful glands, glandular fever is nearly always associated with a sore throat, headaches, fever and sometimes an enlarged spleen and liver. There is no treatment and all too often the patient is left feeling depressed and listless, often for many months.

Dr Thomas Stuttgford

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THE TIMES DIARY

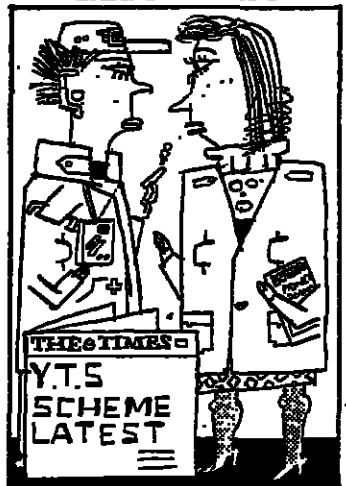
Under the sickle

International auction houses are talking to the Soviet Union about taking home Russian works of art sold or stolen after the revolution. Delegations from Christie's and Sotheby's have met officials to discuss Soviet interest in the repatriation of 18th, 19th and 20th century works, stolen by the Germans during the Second World War and those sold by the government for foreign currency. Christopher Davidge, Christie's newly appointed deputy group managing director, who went to Moscow, says the Russians gave no indication of how much they are willing to spend to reclaim their cultural heritage. "They talk of gaps - but it is unclear if they mean pre-revolution or post-revolution." But the move will not preclude an art spending spree by the Russians, according to Georgi Myasnikov, a Soviet Cultural Foundation official, reports the *New York Times*. If it were presented in that light, prices would go up ten times, he says. The Foundation, set up ten years ago, with Raisa Gorbachov on the board, is supported by voluntary donations which include \$100,000 from Armand Hammer.

IQ and PW

As the kidnapped Terry Waite is remembered this Christmas, one Blackheath neighbour recalls a joke Waite told with relish on his return from Washington shortly before he disappeared last January. During a visit to the US by South Africa's P.W. Botha, President Reagan, anxious to demonstrate the intellectual calibre of his cabinet, asked George Shultz, his Secretary of State, who was his uncle's brother's son. "Me," Shultz instantly answered. On his return to Pretoria, Botha tested his foreign secretary with the same question. Eliciting an identical response from P.W. Botha, P.W. said, so the story goes: "Not you, you idiot, Shultz." The old ones are always the best.

BARRY FANTONI



You can tell Debbie's a proper nurse - she's really badly paid

High odds

Gamblers on a white Christmas, sensing they have backed a loser, may now be tempted by William Hill's book on the abominable snowman. It is offering odds of 150-1 on mountaineer Chris Bonington spotting a yeti during his Himalayan expedition in the spring - very generous, Bonington reckons. But a colleague on the *Irish Times* disagrees: his local betting shop has told him he can claim his winnings only if Bonington brings the yeti back alive. A spokesman for William Hill blames this response on a surfeit of festive cheer. In fact, as with Nessie, it will be up to the Natural History Museum to evaluate Bonington's proof, he says.

On the day Zimbabwe announced its move to one-party rule I am reminded that Liberal leader David Steel, during a visit to that country earlier this year, told PM Robert Mugabe that he was pursuing the same aim of mending different parties. Yesterday he sighed that Mugabe had the edge on him.

Bright spark

The new floodlights on the statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square come courtesy of an idea from Police Constable Claude Murrell. A regular on the Palace of Westminster beat, he made the suggestion last spring to the then MP for Harrow West, Sir Jack Page. A letter was promptly sent to the Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, whose No 2, William Waldegrave, replied saying they both liked the idea. And lo, seven months later, illuminations were installed. Perhaps PC Murrell could now be persuaded to point out that London traffic would flow better if more of the traffic lights worked.

Bardot's blast

An early Christmas present for Brigitte Bardot, who spent most of 1987 exorcising France's hunkin' and shootin' class. According to the latest figures, the number of those who spend their leisure hours pursuing animals has fallen by no fewer than 50,000 over 12 months. More cause for rejoicing, perhaps, at Bardot's St Tropez 2,400 people were sufficiently damaged by falls on the hunting field to claim on their insurance policies.

PHS

Clifford Longley sees the makings of a national catastrophe

A church in free fall



Christmas has come none too soon for the Church of England. Full churches singing lustily are just what it needs to lift its spirits after the difficult and depressing Crookford's preface affair. Most clergy and most church members know only what they have read in the press and heard on the grapevine, but they know enough to realize that if ever anything was likely to give the church a bad name, this was it.

Above all it signalled that those supposed to be in charge had temporarily lost their grip. Dr Gareth Bennett's famous remark in the preface about the Archbishop of Canterbury needs only little amendment to sum up their mood: "It would be good to be assured that they actually know what they are doing."

So a church which is sometimes accused of distracting itself from religion by indulging in politics, ecclesiastical and secular, can now return with relief to the celebration of the religious festival of Christmas, where they do know what they are doing. On Boxing Day, though, the internal problems will still be there.

Friends of Dr Bennett who knew the way his mind was working say he had begun to consider becoming a Roman Catholic. He had postponed a decision when the storm over the preface broke. But in the Bennett circle the fact that it had occurred to him at all was something to conjure with - "Even Gary Bennett . . . they tell each other. He was far from being a Romanizer. And though he sometimes kept their company, the Anglo-Catholics were never sure he was really at home with them."

Bennett was an old-fashioned High Churchman, representing the bedrock fundamentals of that most characteristically Anglican creed. His preface was a last desperate High Church SOS. It signalled that the Church of England he thought he belonged to was going out of business. For such a man, conversion to Roman Catholicism and suicide must have seemed almost equally tough choices.

His death has plunged the church into a guilty kind of grief, not just because it had lost a notable member of the flock but also because his final message to it was an accusation of betrayal - not of him, but of itself. Even among churchmen who do not call themselves High, the idea of the church the term stood for has long been a pillar of Anglican identity. It has much to do with church-and-state, church-and-people, the Church of England as the continuing soul and strength of England under the blessing of Almighty God, however long England existed. That is why his Crookford's tract rang so many bells, not just in the church but also in the nation. Bennett at his best was a brilliant and convincing exponent of it. But it seems he could no longer convince himself.

There are other pillars, still standing: the Church of England will go on, and the shadow over High Churchmanship may leave the influence of other parties like the Evangelicals even stronger. Many have already interpreted the whole tragic Crookford's business merely as the swan song of that kind of idea of the Church of England, saying it was obsolete anyway. The term High Church has already largely given way to Anglo-Catholic (as Low Church has given way to Evangelical), and it is more than a change of name. High Churchmen emphasize the historic link of the church of the present with the church of the past; Anglo-Catholics the contemporary and future link with the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches. High Churchmen never prayed for the Pope; many Anglo-Catholics do just that. The Bishop of London's comment before the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982, that he would welcome him warmly as he would welcome the leader of any other foreign church, is a typical old-fashioned High Churchman's attitude. It is not what modern Anglo-Catholics would say.

And there is a basic difference of self-perception. Anglo-Catholics regard themselves as a campaigning, even subversive, force in the church, entitled to be as cunning as serpents in order to survive. They know what they want, and it lies in the future. High Churchmen know what they want, and it lies in the past.

To the nation at large, the recent tribulations of the Church of England will have seemed unfortunate but affecting none of the things which most people would put high on their personal list of priorities. The great majority of the population, which probably still feels a little uneasy about its general abandonment of organized religious belief and practice in the last half century, may draw some comfort from seeing the church in mild disarray, as tending to confirm that they have been right all the time not to take it seriously.

This marginalization of the Church of England is not easy to contradict. It is useful to have around an institution which preaches tolerance and brotherly love, which can stage-manage with dignity the nation's taste for occasional ritual spectacles, and which looks after a particular corner of English tradition. Without it, who would take care of the ancient cathedrals? But if that is the limit of its significance, its gradual decline is more a pity than a disaster.

Some Anglicans refuse to see themselves in such terms: claims have been made, for instance, that in the last eight years the Church of England has provided the only real and effective opposition to Mrs Thatcher.

The famous *Faith in the City* report spoke boldly of the church being "the conscience of the nation." Maybe such grandiose ideas still seem tenable in academic quads and ecclesiastical cloisters, but in the wider world there really is no evidence for them. What the church does which is still important for the fabric of society, it does at local level. In its "conscience of the nation" mood, the General Synod, in particular, is a pretentious anachronism.

But even without taking the modern Church of England entirely at face value, there are surely grounds for regarding the prospect of its decline and fall as a catastrophe of overwhelming national and historical significance, a threat, even, to the nature of English civilization. Those who knew the workings of Dr Bennett's

mind may guess that he thought so too. For civilizations do not just happen: there were no short cuts round the long haul of the last ten centuries of English history, and what England is now is what those centuries made it. National identity rests fundamentally on universally agreed myths, the common understanding of who the English were and are. Atheists and Nonconformists may not find the idea very palatable, but since the 16th century the Church of England has been crucial to the formation of those national myths; before that, the medieval church was even more so.

If the Christian religion had not been the recognized and official religion of the country all that time, from what sources would all those generations of people have drawn their moral and cultural values? And it is no accident that most of the turning points in the history of English religion are also the turning points of English history in general. The decline of the Church of England could well be the single most important thing that has happened to the English this century. And the strangest thing is that by and large the church itself does not realize it, as if its position in the nation was totally secure.

G.K. Chesterton was fond of saying that on finding a massive raft in the left which seemed to perform no obvious purpose, the last thing you do is saw through it. If you didn't check with the architect's drawings first, that might indeed be the last thing you did because the raft would fall in on you. The charge against the Church of England is that it has been blithely sawing through its own roof timbers.

Some insist they have the architect's drawings, and so cannot go wrong; some that there never were any architect's drawings; some that the architect is mystically guiding them to do the right thing. And some - Dr Bennett was among them - insist that the timbers being cut away in fact held everything up. And there would still be those churchmen who would survey the resulting heap of bricks and rubble through the dust and pronounce it a better house, modernized and streamlined.

matter, of the needs of reporters with early deadlines.

At the time of the Zircon affair, Weatherill granted, at the government's urging, a temporary order prohibiting the showing of the film to MPs in Commons precincts, but he insisted that the issue should be debated by the Commons. When it was accepted, against the government's wishes, a manuscript amendment from Tony Benn which forced the withdrawal of the government's motion on a famous parliamentary occasion.

He has taken on the Lords. In May 1985 he ruled that they had committed a "major infringement" of the rights of MPs by voting for the imposition of a levy on TV films and blank video tapes, a money matter rightly reserved for the Commons. And he has taken on the Prime Minister. Twice last November, for example, he ruled against her twice-stated opinion that the Wright case in Australia was *sub judice*. And though neither side will confirm them, there were reports in the summer of 1985 of a confrontation between Mrs Thatcher and the Speaker in which she demanded better protection at question time and he told her that he had no intention of conceding her.

Weatherill also continues to take a contrary opinion to the Prime Minister on the televising of Parliament. He wants the cameras in to show people what the noise is all about. Let us hope, however, that if they do come in he will be more discriminating between the backbencher with a genuine grievance against the executive and the professional showman on a ego trip.

Meanwhile, we can be sure Jack Weatherill will remain the backbencher's friend, and ministers will continue to troop to the despatch box and answer questions from MPs who have no other way of performing their most important role. If, in the meantime, the Commons continues its intermittent resemblance to a bear garden under a Speaker, less worried than most by the sheer volume of noise, then it is a price many of us are prepared to pay.

Ronald Butt

What makes a Conservative?

Pre-eminent among a variety of motives which impel people to become politicians is the pursuit of power to do the things they think should be done and to organize society in the way they think it should best be organized. Of course, pleasure in power for its own sake becomes a rapidly acquired characteristic and the pleasure to be had from controversy and conflict is also a driving force in politics.

Yet the heart of the matter is the possession of a political creed to make possible cooperation with like-minded people and to give a moral justification for political action. The moral basis of Labour politics is clear. It is the belief in the superiority of collective action to individual responsibility.

But what is the moral basis for Conservatism? At the end of my article last week, I touched on the tendency of some "liberal" clergymen to confuse conservative moral and theological values with Conservative political values, and even sometimes to discern Thatcherite conspiracies behind the anxiety of many so-called "conservative" Anglicans who are distressed by the prevailing theological and ethical thinking of their "liberal" leaders.

Before going on in a later article to discuss the real case of Anglican conservatives, it seems sensible first to try to define the moral values of political Conservatives, particularly since it seems to be assumed by so many who speak from a religious platform that the idea of Conservative moral values is a contradiction in terms. It seems particularly worth attempting after the recent general condemnations of the government for hard-heartedness over the National Health Service.

The first thing to be said about Conservative philosophy is that it does not countenance the idea that the individual and society are at odds with each other. It does not accept that the individual acts so overwhelmingly as a selfish agent of his own interest that only "society" and its officials are capable of acting disinterestedly for the general good.

As Conservatives see it, state dominance actually discourages personal responsibility. The only way to make individuals responsible is to give them the challenge of responsibility. That, after all, is the cardinal principle in bringing up children, and it is the Conservative approach to a more responsible society.

The move it is assumed that it is the businesses of the state to provide for all essential requirements, the less individuals will be willing to pay for their own needs at a level which satisfies them. Instead they fall back on grumbling at the inadequacy of what the state provides. They will also be less willing to take voluntary action to help others, assuming that the state has taken on this responsibility for them.

Yet as we all know, the services of monopolistic state welfare can be chilly and daunting in their impersonal delivery, and although very many in the underpaid and understaffed NHS contribute greatly beyond the call of official duty, over much of the welfare system bureaucracy delivers what only the regulations require.

Not least, the concentration of welfare through general taxation simply encourages the avoidance

of paying taxes and the flourishing of the black economy.

The upshot is that people dependent on state provision for health, welfare and pensions are understandably outraged at the quality of the service delivered. Yet if the National Health Service fails them as consumers it is because they, in their other capacity as taxpayers, object to paying enough for its needs and for those of other essential services. So why do they object? They do so because they do not necessarily trust the state's priorities and efficiency. They do not think that higher taxes will be spent effectively on what they believe are the right priorities.

Hence the problem of the NHS, which the present Tory government has so far ducked for fear of being accused of hard-heartedness if it attempts to reform its financial structure in any way which departs from the existing dependence on general taxation. It has bowed to the opinion, apparently subscribed to by so many "liberal" clergy, which holds the present system to be perfect and assumes that the answer is either to spend more by borrowing more (which is the road to inflation) or to spend more and tax more in general terms without any clear notion of priorities.

Conservative philosophy does not require the state to run everything. Indeed, it does not necessarily require the state to run much. But the state, as the agent of the individuals who comprise society, has a moral duty to see that a system exists which provides essential services to a decent standard for every citizen and when the state decides virtually to monopolise an essential service it should run it properly.

There is no answer to the problem by hastily imposing charges uncovered by insurance, which hit people when they are ill and can least afford the worry of them. That is certainly the objection to the idea of "hotel" charges to cover board in hospitals. If more money is to be raised, it should be done by grafting some kind of genuine insurance system on to the service so that people know where their money is going.

The case of the NHS is an example of Conservative failure to act by Conservative philosophy. The same principles apply to most else where the state has diminished the individual's sense of personal responsibility. There is only a given amount of money available for spending and resource should be had to the individual, by maximizing insurance charges, to determine priorities for resources.

Over-spending today, leaving others to foot the bill tomorrow, is not Conservative philosophy. That brought us to the inflationary crisis and the high unemployment which was an inevitable by-product of its cure and which was also interpreted by so many clergymen as a symptom of hard-heartedness. Inflation is down and unemployment is now falling fast; responsibility is gradually being recreated through society. The ultimate responsibility for all human beings is always individual, and it is on that individual responsibility, according to Conservative philosophy, that the welfare of society must be primarily based.

however . . . Paul Jennings

Son of Summit strikes again

The most quoted remark during the recent summit had been made a few days earlier by President Reagan. Asked whether he felt upstaged by Gorbachov, he said: "No, I don't resent his popularity. Good Lord, I co-starred with Errol Flynn once."

Mr Reagan was talking to high school pupils in Jacksonville, Florida, which explains why so many people were mystified by the jokes about Errol Flynn when the Soviet and American press and TV conference spokesmen were doing their speaking. But surely almost everyone by now must have some half-formed notion of what it would have been like if Flynn had survived to be president. What an epic that would have made! It's easy to imagine the scenario of *Summit*.

We open in the sumptuous living-room of a bungalow outside Reykjavik lent for the summit conference by an Icelandic fishing millionaire called Kodwarinnna Eiseberg. The Russian leader, Mr Gorbushov, is staring impatiently out at the grey, tumbling seas. His wife, Ravissa, is thumbing lightly through a Reader's Digest abridgement of Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Senior diplomats whisper anxiously in the background, from time to time looking nervously at Gorbushov. Mr G (looking at watch): How much longer are we supposed to wait for him? Don't tell me those blundering bureaucrats have got the date wrong! If they have we'll see what a spot of perestroika does for their nice privileged jobs. Look it says it right here in my diary - Wednesday 10am, Summit with Pres Flynn. Best suit? It is Wednesday, isn't it? If he thinks he's going to stand us up . . . (Confused shouting outside.)

In the name of Lenin, what's going on out there? Ravissa: I shouldn't worry. You know these westerners have no idea of time; and in any case time

is only one of the spectacles through which we are forced to see the noumenal world. We can never know the real.

(As the noise rises to a crescendo the door bursts open and Flynn, in dashing 17th-century uniform with plumed hat, bursts in backwards, his flashing sword adding several more to the pile of dead and wounded briefly on the stairs behind him.)

Flynn (bowing to Mrs Eiseberg): Captain d'Arctagnan, at your service, madame. Ravissa: Why isn't it called *The Four Musketeers*? Where are Patmos, Orthes and whatsiname, Aramis? Flynn: I have not the honour of knowing you, madame. I trust this shall be right speedily rectified. Well, it's because those three are musketeers. I have a sword because it's more photogenic. I'd like to see Bond make an entrance like that with his Beretta. Ho, these dogs of Gascons . . . Director's Voice (on public address system): What the hell script you got? This is *Summit*.

Flynn: Oh, I wondered what those stars were doing in a bungalow. Sorry, hell of a party last night. (To Kodwarinnna) Come and help me learn my new lines, sweetheart . . . Cut to a room in the Kremlin where Fillysyd, a Russian expert on the West, is explaining protest tactics for a demonstration against Ravissa by the UDRW (Union of Dumping Russian Women), led by Ekaterina Alexovna. Enter Flynn, brown make-up, mujahedin dress with about 500 cartridges, six grenades and a Blowpipe missile, and the Soviet spy detailed to compromise him, Nadia Nokitoff. Flynn (uneasily): Here, you said this was a signing session for *How I Won Afghanistan*. Nadia (sepalchal, sexy voice. She has fallen in love with him): Feet cess bad for you here. We must have our own private summit well away from here . . .

Umpire with a backbench bias

be speaker. She would rather have had Francis Pym, if he could have been persuaded, or Humphrey Atkins, and was unwise enough to let it be known. Weatherill thus became the Commons candidate against the Establishment choice.

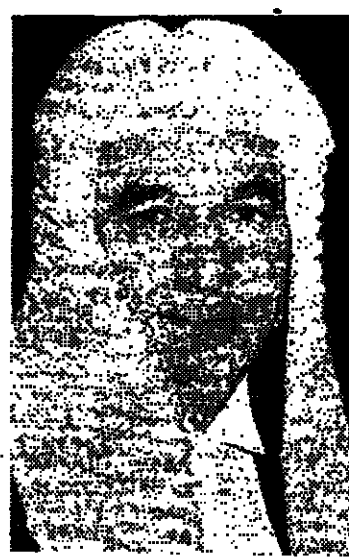
When, traditionally, he was dragged forward from the back benches in 1983 to take the chair, there were roars of approval for Labour veteran Jack Dorman's description of him as "his own man." And that he has stayed.

Former cabinet ministers such as Selwyn Lloyd and George Thomas have a subconscious sympathy with governments trying to get their legislation through and a natural instinct for order. Jack Weatherill is different. He pushes for shorter speeches by ministers and privy councillors.

In days when the ideological gap between the parties is a wide one he does not expect a quiet Commons, saying: "If we are going to have any rows or explosions in our country, let us have them in the House of Commons not out in the streets." (Even if that does beg the question how much those considering going out into the streets take their cue from the parliamentary battle.)

Though he has yet to christen this one, he called the 1983 parliament the Frustration Parliament and reminded those who complained about the rows of tougher days, such as those of the Home Rule Bill in the 1890s, when fist fights broke out and the Commons floor was strewn with convulsions and false teeth.

Nor is he namby pamby about parliamentary language. When Tory MPs frothed that Neil Kinnock's "I do not believe you" to the Prime Minister in a clash over the Clive Ponting prosecution amounted to calling her a liar, Weatherill dismissed their protestations, saying: "The expression is used in this House almost daily."



Weatherill: still his own man

He saw off Denis Healey's bluster one question-time, refusing to call the then foreign affairs spokesman because the Labour Front Bench had had four goes already. One judicious Tory puts it this way: "His most notable feature is being the servant of the House, but never the servant of the executive. He has consistently stood up for the rights of backbenchers, and, in a wider context, of the general public who not unreasonably expect Parliament to discuss important issues and events as and when they arise, and not at some later date perhaps more convenient to the government."

Most significantly of all, in his first session Weatherill granted 48 private notice questions - forcing answers out of a government unwilling to volunteer a Commons statement. This compares with seven granted in George Thomas's last session. When ministers do make statements he lets the questions run on, oblivious of government convenience or, for that



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481-4100

A CHILD WAS BORN

The closing of the last shop on Christmas Eve marks the beginning of a Christmas curfew on commerce, when the characteristic sound of the season changes from the ringing of retail tills to the ringing of church bells. The compulsion to celebrate Christmas has immense power, and no other event, in peacetime at least, has consequences anything like it. The interruption of national routine is as if VE Day and the Coronation happened on the same day in the middle of the General Strike.

We can predict that future social scientists will spend much energy on the attitudes to this annual event in our lives. Whole books may be devoted to the relationship of our Christmas to its origins, with some favouring Christmas as a nostalgic regression into a Victorian golden age, and others, more Jungian-minded, insisting that it is about the mass surfacing of archetypal ideas from the collective unconscious.

But if that is as far as our analysts can take it, they will have missed something that is as obvious as a Christmas tree. Christmas is a celebration. Almost everyone in the country is congratulating someone else on something. The search for the meaning of Christmas is the search to discover what it is that people are being so enthusiastically congratulated by each other for.

Whatever it is must be of very great importance to the people concerned. If an edict went out from Rome, or anywhere, announcing that September 27 would henceforth be a very great festival, to commemorate and enjoy nothing in particular, the trains would not stop nor the land fall silent; neither would there be that spectacular outbreak of cheerfulness and generosity which is such a strange feature of the time of year. A particularly observant researcher into late 20th century Christmas might make the pertinent suggestion that there is one other human experience which is close to the pattern noted at Christmas: the way people celebrate the birth of a child.

The game is up, of course: Christmas is about what it is supposed to be about. It is an error to start from the assumption that Christmas can have nothing to do with religion on the grounds that most people spend most of their time having nothing to do with religion. It is the other way round. Christmas has such an abiding and profound hold on the imagination, although it is a religious event, that some scepticism about the modern world's alleged religious indifference is in order. Measured by the scale of the celebration, people are surely enjoying the best news they have ever heard. It is the same news received annually, yet with no law of diminishing returns to blunt its annual value as news.

So the question becomes: what is it about all those other things called religion which do not have that same joyous grip on the human heart and mind? The contrast between Christmas and those other religious things is instructive. The Christmas story involves various implausibilities of the kind that make radical theologians mad; yet such intellectual problems do not get in the way, for they are not the point.

The Christmas rituals are by any standards, except those of Christmas itself, embarrassingly infantile, yet Christmas gives its own permission, makes its own law. Its appeal is to the imagination rather than the intellect, and to the natural pleasure of the child in all of us at hearing the same favourite story frequently retold.

It lies, above all, in the glimpse Christmas offers of what peace on earth and goodwill to all men would be like were they ever to arrive. It is the exciting optimism of Christmas which gives it its magic, which makes it seem not even really "religious" at all, in the familiar sense of the word. And so it is no accident that at the heart of Christmas lies the birth of a child, for therein is its sublime optimism. It announces a new beginning.

THE GOLDEN SHARE

Yesterday the City Takeover Panel removed what had been a potentially insurmountable hurdle to British Petroleum's takeover bid for Britoil. It ruled that the Treasury's use of its "golden share", which might cause BP to infringe the letter of the City takeover code, was a genuine exception to a rule designed for quite different purposes.

That is surely correct. The very notion of a "golden share", which gives the government the right to resist a change of control in the board of several privatized companies, is the antithesis of the purpose of the City Code, which is to protect the rights of individual shareholders and ensure that all are treated equally in the case of takeover bids.

The "golden share" is a mechanism for exercising a political veto over shareholders' rights and market forces in what is deemed to be the national interest. It is, at present, a mystery exactly what issue of national importance is at stake, since the Treasury has declined to disclose its motives. It has simply announced that it will block any change of control in the Britoil boardroom.

That, in itself, suggests an arrogant treatment of shareholders. Some explanation is surely required for an attempt to block BP's offer to buy Britoil shares at a large premium to the price they would be likely to command in the absence of BP or its American rival, Arco.

As it happens, BP has decided to proceed with its offer regardless, giving shareholders the chance to realize a premium price, although the American company has paused for thought. This unexpected turn of events offers the bizarre prospect of Britoil ending up in the ownership of BP but with its board controlled by the Treasury.

It is a legal accident that the Treasury itself holds the "golden share". But the decision to use it in this way probably stemmed from the Chancellor, Mr Lawson was, in 1982, the Energy Secretary responsible for the original Britoil sale. There are three likely motives:

industrial, nationalistic and political. None of them is convincing.

If the stock market crash enables big oil companies to buy North Sea reserves more cheaply than drilling for them, they will do so and thereby diminish the search for new reserves which the Government wishes to promote. But this potential conflict between takeovers and investment is universal in industry and there is also a case for rationalizing North Sea exploration to take account of the maturity of the oilfields and lower returns.

If, on the other hand, the Government simply wishes to keep Britoil in British control, it should expose its nationalistic purpose to public scrutiny and not also seek to veto purchase by BP. During the recent doomed sale of BP shares, its status as British and best was loudly trumpeted. Thanks to the Bank of England buy-back offer, the state may again soon be BP's largest shareholder.

It seems more likely that Mr Lawson is anxious to display muscle and avoid political difficulties. At the time of Britoil's flotation, the "golden share" was offered as a guarantee that Britoil would not fall into undesirable hands. Yet BP is clearly not undesirable and has promised it will augment rather than diminish Britoil's management base in Scotland. The two accounts for only one fifth of North Sea acreage.

A simple government veto may have some function in privatized national utilities. It sits ill with conventional companies operating in competitive conditions. The Government has other methods, such as the Monopolies Commission for testing takeovers against the national interest. Subsequent "golden shares" in companies have been given a limited life, just long enough to permit safe establishment in the new private environment. Beyond that, the spirit of privatization dictates that shareholders should be trusted to follow their own interests.

MERGER OF CONVENIENCE

Political marriages are seldom made in heaven. They happen in the cause of temporary self-interest, which is why most of them end in messy divorce. The merger announced in Harare this week between Mr Robert Mugabe's ruling Zanu party and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu, would appear to be more fragile than most, and not only because Mr Mugabe seems determined to lead Africa's youngest independent state into the fool's paradise of Marxist Leninism.

Both parties bring to the marriage a memory of bitterness and bloodshed based not on ideological differences but on tribalism, a far more potent cause of mistrust between Africa's people. Zanu, which represents predominantly Shona interests, broke away from Zapu in the 1960s and although the two parties created the Patriotic Front alliance in opposition to the Smith regime, all semblance of harmony vanished once their exile was ended.

In the election which preceded independence, Zapu victories were restricted to its Matabele heartland and within a year Mr Nkomo, who was briefly Home Affairs Minister in the new government, had resumed his exile in London and Mr Mugabe's Fifth Brigade was using unbridled ferocity to crush dissidence in Matabeleland.

The persecution of Mr Nkomo's men continued this year when the government interrupted its wooing of Zapu to detain its officials and ban its meetings. It is easy to discern why Mr Nkomo has come to believe that unity, even at the cost of his party's name, is a better option than continued harassment and oppression.

But Mr Mugabe's need for this marriage of convenience was equally pressing, and not merely to secure Zimbabwe's emergence in 1988 as Africa's latest one-party state. Incur-

sions by the Mozambique guerrilla group, Renamo, have shown the country's long eastern border to be highly permeable. This has increased the desirability of securing the loyalty of the Ndebele in the south and west by a more satisfactory means than brutal suppression.

To give the marriage the slightest chance of success, however, Mr Mugabe will have to offer preferment to Mr Nkomo and other Zapu leaders — at some cost to his own, often fractious, colleagues who have opposed unity as a threat to their own jobs. More important, if he is to win the allegiance of the Ndebele, who believe they have been grievously discriminated against by the ruling Shonas, he will have to divert some of the country's resources to the development of Matabeleland. This will not be easy at a time when the ribs are beginning to show through Zimbabwe's thinning layer of fat.

Seven years after independence, the country faces a crippling shortage of foreign exchange, a huge foreign debt, a negative growth rate, high inflation, low investment, import shortages and soaring unemployment, especially among educated young people. These problems will not be resolved by an artificial and fragile unity, nor by the introduction of a one-party state nor by Mr Mugabe's translation on January 1 to the post of executive president.

Only foreign investors can provide the answer and they require both a liberal investment code and a great deal less Marxist rhetoric if they are to be persuaded that their investments are secure. Mr Mugabe's renewed vow to introduce a Marxist-Leninist state ensures that the dowry he brings to Mr Nkomo and his suspicious followers may be too small to ensure lasting harmony.

A helping hand for the East End

From the Warden and Chief Executive of Toynbee Hall
Sir, As we approach the end of 1987, your newspaper will doubtless be publishing the customary review of the year and recalling major issues and problems. Prince Charles, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Prime Minister have all expressed their real concern for the problems of the poor and disadvantaged in our inner cities. Your articles have highlighted the dangers if these causes of unrest are not tackled. How is it then that the words of all these eminent people go unheeded?

Toynbee Hall lies in one of the most under-privileged areas in the country. Tower Hamlets, where unemployment is nearly 30 per cent, despite the promises of the burgeoning Docklands and the successful City firms. The so-called stock market crash had no impact at all on the Bengali community trying to maintain dignity in rat-infested homes and to live a semblance of normal life, with no money, little education and no hope of amelioration of these conditions.

How many of your readers would like to scuffle for their daily sustenance, as our neighbours do, among the rotting

cabbage leaves and left-overs from Spitalfields Market? Wives remain incarcerated with their large families unless they can be brought to the Toynbee Hall families centre for a few hours' training and education, and now even this support machine will be cut off through lack of funds. In 1987 how many people have seen us but passed by on the other side?

The East End is like a powder keg, just waiting to be ignited. The Prince and the Archbishop have recognised this in their appeal to the public and private sector, to people of all religions, but why does no one act on their advice? It seems that whenever the Prince comes to the East End he is surrounded by worthy bodies who listen, but do nothing.

Sponsorship, training and teaching of life skills, especially to the young, are urgently needed now in order that people in our community may gain self-respect and the ability to help themselves.

Sir, must we wait another year for action?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
Warden and Chief Executive,
Toynbee Hall,
28 Commercial Street, E1,
December 23.

Role of the unions

From Mr Gerald Hartup
Sir, The Director General of the Engineering Employers' Federation, James McFarlane (December 17), in his attack on clause 3 of the Employment Bill, states confidently: "Those who belong to a union but who do not wish to follow a majority decision can and should leave the union".

The Bill does nothing to end the pre-entry closed shop, where the holding of a particular union card is a prerequisite of employment, thereby effectively denying individuals the right to resign from a union if they wish to retain the option of changing their jobs. It also does not prevent employers demanding that candidates be prepared to join a particular union as a condition of obtaining employment. It is now, unfortunately, at the point of recruitment that compulsory union membership continues to be enforced.

This is the position in his industry. Mr McFarlane's exhortations should therefore be ignored by workers inhibiting the real world.

The passage of the Employment Bill does, however, provide the opportunity for a historic restatement of the principles of industrial relations in this country. The trade union movement and federations like Mr McFarlane's must re-

nounce the institution of the closed shop and embrace the concept of voluntary trade union membership. This means nothing less than the acceptance of the principle that a non-union member should have exactly the same job opportunities as a union member.

This restatement of the principles of industrial relations should be given statutory form in the legislation by incorporating in it article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights which protects the individual's right to freedom of association.

A commitment to voluntary union membership by the trade union movement would, incidentally, give trade unions and the TUC enormous moral authority in carrying out their important functions.

In these new circumstances Mr McFarlane's advice, amended to read, "Those who belong to a union but who do not wish to follow a majority decision can and should accept the disciplinary consequences or leave the union", would then become appropriate.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD HARTUP
(Campaign Director),
The Freedom Association,
Avon House,
360-366 Oxford Street, W1
December 18.

Doctors and press

From Dr Conamore Smith and others

Sir, As doctors with many years' experience in family-planning medicine we wish to draw attention to recent moves by Bath District Health Authority (report, December 21) to prevent a colleague from commenting on the practical effects of health authority decisions to cut family-planning services.

The Government itself has, as recently as October 26, 1987, (Hansard, col. 159-160), supported the freedom of choice for women that district health authority (DHA) services provide. DHA family-planning clinics represent a complementary and cost-effective service for the women who, for their own reasons, do not wish to consult their general practitioner on this sensitive issue.

These clinics also provide specialist advice and supplies as well as training for doctors and nurses.

It is therefore essential that attention is drawn to the effects of clinic closures and we deplore attempts to curtail our freedom of speech on this issue.

Yours faithfully,
CONAMORE SMITH,
SHEILA RIDDELL (Chairman,
Joint Committee on Contraception),
JOHN GUILLEBAUD (Director,
Margaret Pyke Centre),
ROSEMARY KIRKMAN
(Chairman, National Association of
Family Planning Doctors),
JOHN MCNEIL (King's College
Hospital),
CHRISTINE WATSON (Levensham
and North Southwark Health
Authority),
Faddington and North
Kensington Health Authority,
Raynham Health Clinic,
Telford Road, W10,
December 23.

Drink-driving law

From Inspector A. C. Street

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr G. T. K. Boney (December 17), states that chief constables tend not to prosecute drinking drivers who are only marginally above the prescribed limit. As a member of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, I was not aware of that and it is certainly not the policy of my force.

What I am sure of is that no one is prosecuted on the basis of an exact measurement of 81 or 82 (mg/ml). In the case of blood analysis, the prosecution is based on a report from a forensic science laboratory to the effect that the level of alcohol found in the blood was at least the given figure. In

practice there is always a substantial prior deduction in favour of the subject. This same benefit is accorded to the accused in the case of breath analysis by not prosecuting under 40 (microgrammes alcohol per 100ml breath), whereas the limit prescribed in law is 35.

To suggest that minimal excesses should not be prosecuted is misleading and introduces unnecessary uncertainty. Any exceeding of the prescribed limit should lead to prosecution with no element of discretion.

Yours faithfully,
A. C. STREET,
4 Horswell Close, Plympton,
Plymouth, Devon,
December 17.

Contingency fees

From Mr David Kemp, QC

Sir, Your article, "Justice for all" (December 16), prompts me to refer to a problem which would arise if contingency fees were to be permitted. In English litigation the losing party generally pays a substantial part of the victor's costs. This is a salutary sanction against the bringing of claims which have little prospect of success.

In the USA the combination of contingency fees with a system under which the losing party is not liable to pay the victor's costs often results in an abuse of litigation: defendants make a substantial payment to be rid of an unwelcome claim rather than face the greater cost of successfully defending the action.

If a contingency fee system is ever to be allowed in England, lawyers operating on this basis should be required to pay any costs which may be awarded against their client.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEMP,
Gray's Inn Chambers,
Gray's Inn, WC1,
December 16.

Awkward take-off

From Mr T. D. Wood

Sir, As another octogenarian, may I suggest to Mr Leonard P. Cook (December 16) that his frustration at having to use pliers to remove the top of his tube of eyeglasses would be eliminated if he fixed a rubber band firmly round the cap before attempting to remove it. This rarely fails and may be used to remove both metal and plastic caps without resorting to pliers.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. WOOD,
1 New Road, Stoke Fleming,
Dartmouth, South Devon.

From Mr Gerald Priestland
Sir, Your correspondent, Leonard Cook, who was unable to open his eyeglasses or margarine without mechanical help, was yet another victim of a secret organisation known as the PPPC (People-Proof Packaging Corporation) which has been acting as consultant to British industry for many years past.

One of PPPC's earliest creations was the pre-packed butter pat, half of which remained on the wrapper. It then took a giant step forward with the exploding cream capsule for coffee, which led in

In defence of the prosecution

From Mr Stephen J. Wooler

Sir, The importance of the remarks reported by you on December 17 as having been made by a judge at Wood Green Crown Court — namely, that "if a judge does not stand between the State and a subject when he perceives oppression then who will?" — lies not so much in his criticism of the Crown Prosecution Service but in the fundamental issue of how far a trial judge should enter the arena itself.

Ensuring equilibrium in the scales of justice depends not merely on the impartiality and independence of the judiciary but also on other agencies concerned enjoying similar independence; where the position of one party is undermined, the delicate balance between the public interest and that of the defendant is lost.

A current feature of crown court practice is the increasing frequency with which pressure is brought to bear on the prosecution

to acquiesce in the short disposal of cases — whether by offering no evidence or accepting either a bind-over or a plea to a lesser offence — where it is simply not in the public interest to do so. The trend was particularly noticeable during the Lord Chancellor's Department's blitz earlier this year; the disposal of cases involving offensive weapons caused particular concern in north London.

But the problem also extends to other offences where, even though it may be relatively minor, a right to trial by jury exists, and the CPS has come under pressure to dispose of shoplifting cases by binding over the accused to keep the peace — not the purpose for which bind-overs are intended.

Whilst clearly it is not in the public interest for crown court lists to be overburdened with minor cases, it would be just as much contrary to the public interest if defendants were to perceive an improvement in their cases being discontinued simply by the expedient of electing trial by jury.

In one case earlier this month a senior CPS lawyer was summoned to the crown court to explain and justify his reluctance to agree to a bind-over in an assault case where the victim had suffered loss of two teeth, bruising to the chest and to the forehead, together with a cracked ankle bone. The CPS lawyer did not capitulate and the defendant then pleaded guilty.

Whether the judge was right in the case which you reported on December 17 to assume the function of the jury even before any evidence had been called is a matter which may never be considered elsewhere. My concern is that the CPS in north London must be seen to be truly independent — not just independent of the police — so that the public will have confidence that it will pursue those cases where the public interest so requires.

This means taking account of (as in the instant case), but not overreacting to, legitimate public concern on such issues as the abuse of firearms. The criticisms levelled by some police officers at the CPS stem from the fact that it takes decisions with proper independence; it is somewhat ironic that the CPS should at the same time find itself branded as oppressive.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN J. WOOLER,
Chief Crown Prosecutor (Outer
London North),
North London Area Office,
Solar House,
1-9 Romford Road, Stratford, E15.



ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 24 1787

The poem reproduced below was first published on Christmas Eve 200 years ago

APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS.

NOW Winter spreads its mantle

The time of youthful merriment

draws nigh;

While festive Christmas cheers

each jovial heart,

And prentice lads, ambitious to

be smart,

With wish'd-for holiday give

shops a truce,

Of butter'd cakes and ale become

profuse,

And now our sports are 'thin

doors confin'd,

By dread of noses blue from

cutting wind;

Nor rolling down the hill the

wanton lass,

Nor green-gown pleasures now on

crinkling grass,

But games of forfeit and

cockles, and

And other sportive games of

youth, I wot,

Serve to delude the lengthen'd

night away,

Or crown with mirth and laughter

all the day;

The pendant mistletoe hung up to

view,

Reminds the youth, the duty

youth should do,

While tit-tit'ing maidens, to en-

hance their wishes,

Entice the men to smother them

with kisses;

Or sit we round the high pil'd

roxy fire,

And listen to the tale of Dame or

Sire,

What wonders in their youth

they have perform'd,

What feats of arms or love their

bosoms warm'd,

While some unsozial youth will

leave the fair,

And on the waters iced bosom

dare;

With steeded armour buckled on

their feet,

Thus scarcely seem to touch, they

sail so fleet.

Yet not on sports alone let me

descant,

While Winter's coldness height-

ens meagre Want,

Oh! Heaven-born Charity! may'st

thou dispense

The balm of succour to wrong'd

Innocence,

Extend the influence to the needy

poor;

Yet flourish Plenty where she

reign'd before,

Bid Poverty's cold shivering

limbs be warm,

And shelter venerable age from

harm;

The bed of sickness cheer with

Comfort's aid,

And bid th'attacks of hunger

drear be stay'd.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
December 23: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Mr Leopold Amiot (Secretary to the Governor-General of Canada) at the Funeral of the late Victor Chapman (formerly Assistant Press Secretary to the Queen) which was held in St John's Anglican Church, Ottawa, this morning.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 23: The Prince Edward this evening narrated a production of *Peter and the Wolf* at a concert given by the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in aid of the

Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra celebrate their birthdays on Christmas Day.

The Duke of Gloucester has accepted the Patronage of the Historic Churches Trust Cycle Ride for a period of three years.

Mr Graham Matthews wishes his friends at home and abroad a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Church news

APPOINTMENTS

The Rev George Campbell, incumbent, Holy Trinity, West Bromwich, diocese of Lichfield, to be also Chaplain (part time), Heath Lane Hospital, West Bromwich, same diocese.

The Rev Norman Clarke, Priest-in-charge, Sprucewood, Bursall, diocese of Lincoln, to be also Diocesan Communications Officer, diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to be Priest-in-charge, Cheriton Bishop and Dunsford, diocese of Exeter.

The Rev Ann V Coleman, Development Worker, Golders Green, St Alban the Martyr and St Michael, diocese of London, to be a Selection Secretary/Vocations Officer, Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry, (ACCM), Church House, Westminster.

Canon Paul Duffett, Rector, Greenham in Embsay, diocese of Portsmouth, to be Rector, Papworth Everard, and part-time Chaplain, Papworth Hospital, diocese of Ely.

The Rev Peter Faulkner, Vicar, East and West Highborne, diocese of Oxford, to be Team Vicar, West Slough Team Ministry, same diocese.

The Rev Dudley Gummer, Vicar, St Anne's, Luton, diocese of St Albans, to be Vicar, St George's, North Harrow (where he is at present incumbent), diocese of London.

The Rev Peter Hemmings, to be Vicar, St Alban's, North Harrow, in plurality with St George's, North Harrow (where he is at present incumbent), diocese of London.

The Rev Barry Jackson, Chaplain, Wycliffe College, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, to be Vicar, Heathfield All Saints, diocese of Chichester.

The Rev Paul Jennings, Team Vicar, Halesowen, diocese of Worcester, to be Chaplain, Mental Handicap Unit, St Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr, diocese of Lichfield.

The Rev Eric Kernall, Curate, St Chad, Lichfield, diocese of Lichfield, to be the Incumbent, St Gregory, Wednesfield, same diocese.

The Rev Jonathan Kirkpatrick, Assistant Curate, St Mary's, Lewisham, diocese of Southwark, to be a Selection Secretary, Advisory Council for the Church's Ministry, (ACCM), Church House, Westminster.

The Rev Adrian Leighton, Rector, Ipswich St Helen, diocese of

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, to be Priest-in-charge, Holbrook All Saints in Freston St Peter and Wolverstone St Michael, same diocese.

The Rev John H Lewis, Team Vicar, Great Cuckham Team Ministry, diocese of Oxford, to be Priest-in-charge, Newport Pagnell, Lathbury and Moulsoe, same diocese.

The Rev Brian Macdonald-Milne, incumbent, Waterbeach, diocese of Ely, to be Rector, Radwinter in Hemstead, diocese of Chelmsford.

The Rev Richard Nash, retired, to be Retirement Officer (caring for retired clergy and their families), Wells archdeaconry, diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev Nicholas Reade, Vicar, Mayfield St Dunstan, and Rural Dean of Dallington, diocese of Chichester, to be Vicar, Eastbourne St Mary, and Rural Dean of Eastbourne, same diocese.

The Rev Graham Shaw, lately Chaplain and Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, to be Rector, Farnborough, Kent, diocese of Rochester.

The Rev Dietrich D Schuldt, Curate-in-charge, St Vincent and St James the Less, Westminster, diocese of London, to be Priest-in-charge, Cheddington, Mertonmore and Marsworth, diocese of Oxford.

The Rev David Thomas, Team Vicar, Coventry East Team Ministry, diocese of Coventry, to be Team Rector, Canvey Island Team Ministry, diocese of Chelmsford.

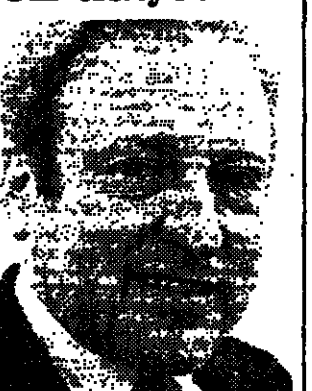
Canon Timothy Thompson, Rector, St James's All Saints, St Nicholas and St Runwald, Colchester, and Rural Dean of Colchester, diocese of Chelmsford, to be a Residential Canon of Chelmsford Cathedral, same diocese.

The Rev Peter S Walker, Assistant Curate, Brentwood, St Thomas, diocese of Chelmsford, to be Vicar, St Barnabas, Old Heath, Colchester, same diocese.

Canon Rodney Whitman, Vicar, St Barnabas, Erdington, diocese of Birmingham, to be also Rural Dean of Aston, same diocese.

The Rev Valerie Woods, Curate, Coleford in Staunton, diocese of Gloucester, to be Resident Team Minister, Bedminster Team Ministry, diocese of Bristol.

University news



Birmingham
Mr David Holmes (above) is to be the first holder of the newly created post of registrar and secretary at the university from April 1, 1988. Mr Holmes, aged 39, is deputy registrar and academic secretary of Liverpool University responsible for planning and resource allocation.

Branel Grants
Agricultural and Food Research Council, £1,500 to Dr G. G. Evans to research the manufacture of large ceramic components by controlled pressure injection moulding.

Research
£15,000 to Dr J. C. G. Jones to research the effects of stress on the immune system.

Science and Engineering Research Council
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Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: John, reigned 1199-1216; George Crabbe, poet, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1754; James Joule, physicist, Salford, Lancashire, 1818; Matthew Arnold, Laleham, Middlesex, 1822.

DEATHS: William Makepeace Thackeray, London 1863; Alban Berg, composer, Vienna, 1935.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: William Collins, poet, Chichester, 1721; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, first Governor-General of Pakistan 1947-48, Karachi, 1876; Maurice Utrillo, painter, Paris, 1883; Dame Rebecca West, writer, London, 1892.

DEATHS: Karl Capek, dramatist, Prague, 1938; W. C. Fields, film comedian, Pasadena, California, 1946; Sir Charles (Charlie) Chaplin, Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland, 1977.

Appointments
Latest appointments include: Mr J. G. Nattin to be First Junior Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court, Mr M. S. Heslop to be a Junior Treasury Counsel.

Mr J. S. Lee, Second Master of Durham School, to be Headmaster of Trent College, Long Eaton, from next September, on the retirement of Mr A. J. Maltby.

Dr Miller said that investment in new computer-controlled machinery was vital if British engineering courses were to be as up to date as those in other countries.

The council is asking for the views of industry, academics and the Government on how the problem can be overcome. It has circulated a consultation document to all interested parties suggesting, among other things, that university and polytechnic engineering departments might have to merge with each other and other institutions to make more funds available for high-technology equipment.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.I. Barnes and Miss A. Thomas
The engagement is announced between Nicholas James, son of the late Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Christopher Barnes and Mrs D.M. Oddie and stepson of Commodore David Oddie of Winchester, Hampshire, and Anna, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Thomas, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.W. Beattie and Miss J.C. Nere
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Commander and Mrs L.A. Beattie, of Riversea, Kingswear, near Dartmouth, Devon, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs T.H.D. Nere, of Goldwell, Biddenden, Kent.

Mr S.J. Bryan and Miss K.A.L. Elliot
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs James C. Bryan, of Lytham, and Katherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James C. Hilton, also of Lytham, Lancashire.

Mr P.J.B. Crebbin and Miss T.D. Gaubert
The engagement is announced between Philip, only son of Mr R. Crebbin and Mrs M. Crebbin, of Lynton, Hampshire, and Tess, eldest daughter of Mr Jean Claude Gaubert and Mme E.M. Gaubert, of Paris, France.

Mr L.C. Dods-Smith and Miss C.S. Clarke-Jervoise
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr J.E. Dods-Smith, of Scaldwell, Northamptonshire, and Mrs J.E. Dods-Smith, of Scaldwell, Northamptonshire, and Mrs J.E. Dods-Smith, of Scaldwell, Northamptonshire, and Mrs J.E. Dods-Smith, of Scaldwell, Northamptonshire.

Mr R.D. Hammond and Miss N.A.K. Borrowman
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Mr R.E.W. Fabbri and Miss A.P. Romay
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the late Mr and Mrs E. Fabbri, and nephew of Miss Elisabeth Woodthorpe, of London, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Romay, of Skithos, Greece.

Mr B.C. Few Brown and Miss A.L. Cottrell
The engagement is announced between Benjamin Geoffrey, son of Mr Peter Few Brown, of Windfield, Berkshire, and Mrs John Winnington-Lagan, of Cottingham, Oxfordshire, and Alison Louise, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Cottrell, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr P.A. Goodall and Miss A.P. Whiting
The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. Goodall, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Whiting, of West Molesey.

Mr A.J. Graham-Brown and Miss L.L. Oiras
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Edward Graham-Brown and the late Thelma Graham-Brown, of St Austell, Cornwall, and Inger Lise Oiras, of Kristiansand, Norway.

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BOOKS

Holy Writ as Lit Crit

Peter Ackroyd reviews the Bible as our first fiction

THE LITERARY GUIDE
TO THE BIBLE
Edited by Robert Alter and
Frank Kermode
Collins, £20

To treat the Bible solely as a work of literature may seem to be a kind of heresy — rather like that of the camp followers of Roman Catholicism who view Mass as an aesthetic exercise — and yet there can be no doubt about its literary status. Its cadences and images have been rilled by writers as diverse as Milton and Auden, Bunyan and Lawrence: everyone thought that the Old and New Testaments ended with Revelations, but it has continued with borrowings.

No doubt this is justification enough for the present volume which, in a selection of essays, subjects the various texts of the Old and New Testaments to the editors' call "literary criticism". Those who have seen the intelligent reading of poetry and fiction practically ruined by the attentions of literary critics may regard this as something of a mixed blessing, however; to elucidate the Bible in the familiar academic way might be to subject it to an indignity unrivalled even by the speculations of Cecil R. De Mille.

And yet the aim of the editors is to help the "educated general reader" to learn how to read the Bible again — a laudable purpose and, in an age where the Bible is commonly seen only in hotel rooms or courts of law, perhaps even a necessary one. Certainly many of the essays here are successful in these terms, and although the name for this religio-literary discipline — "narratology" — may not be particularly inviting, its effects can be stimulating. The contributors proceed from the evident fact that the Bible comprises a loose collection of disparate materials to demonstrate that its coherence lies in its actual writing. Even if the world was created by God, it is recreated by language, and — so the argument runs — the authors of the various biblical texts understood that the most astonishing or inventive concatenations of words may reveal new truths, or at least illuminate previously held ones. In the beginning, after all, was the Word itself.

At this level of enquiry, of course, the conventional divisions between "fact" and "fiction" are of no real consequence. So where previous scholars were concerned to anatomize the Bible, to reduce it to its constituent parts in order to recover its supposedly historical origins, the purpose of this volume is to re-integrate the Bible in stylistic and linguistic terms. Not to force it into that spurious whole which fundamentalists tend to favour but, rather, to see it as a coherent set of texts which have been shaped by redactors or editors to conform to certain patterns of narrative. The task, then, is to put together what historians and the quondam exponents of High Criticism shattered; where previous scholars have seen contradictions or redundant parallels as marks of a corrupt text, the various essayists here reinterpret such stylistic characteristics as items in a larger rhetorical unity.

It has to be said that some of the results are not easy to read. Specialists talk to specialists, particularly on the subject of the Old Testament, and display very little regard for that "general reader" whom the editors had previously invoked. Here once more is the cant about "function" or "strategy" or "ambiguity": one would have more faith in those who expound the literary merit of the Bible if they managed to write a little better. A *Literary Guide* sounds like some agreeable compendium to be placed by the bedside but, for this particular volume, even the most assiduous reader will need a lexicon

of critical terms as well as a supply of aspirin.

But there are some illuminating essays — Frank Kermode and Robert Alter themselves provide evidence that biblical scholarship and literary criticism can be united, while Francis Landy's essays on *The Song of Songs* and *Lamentations* provide some of the best close reading since the work of Walter Pater. To adduce that parallel is to suggest, of course, that even the newest of new criticism may really be aesthetic interpretation under another name.

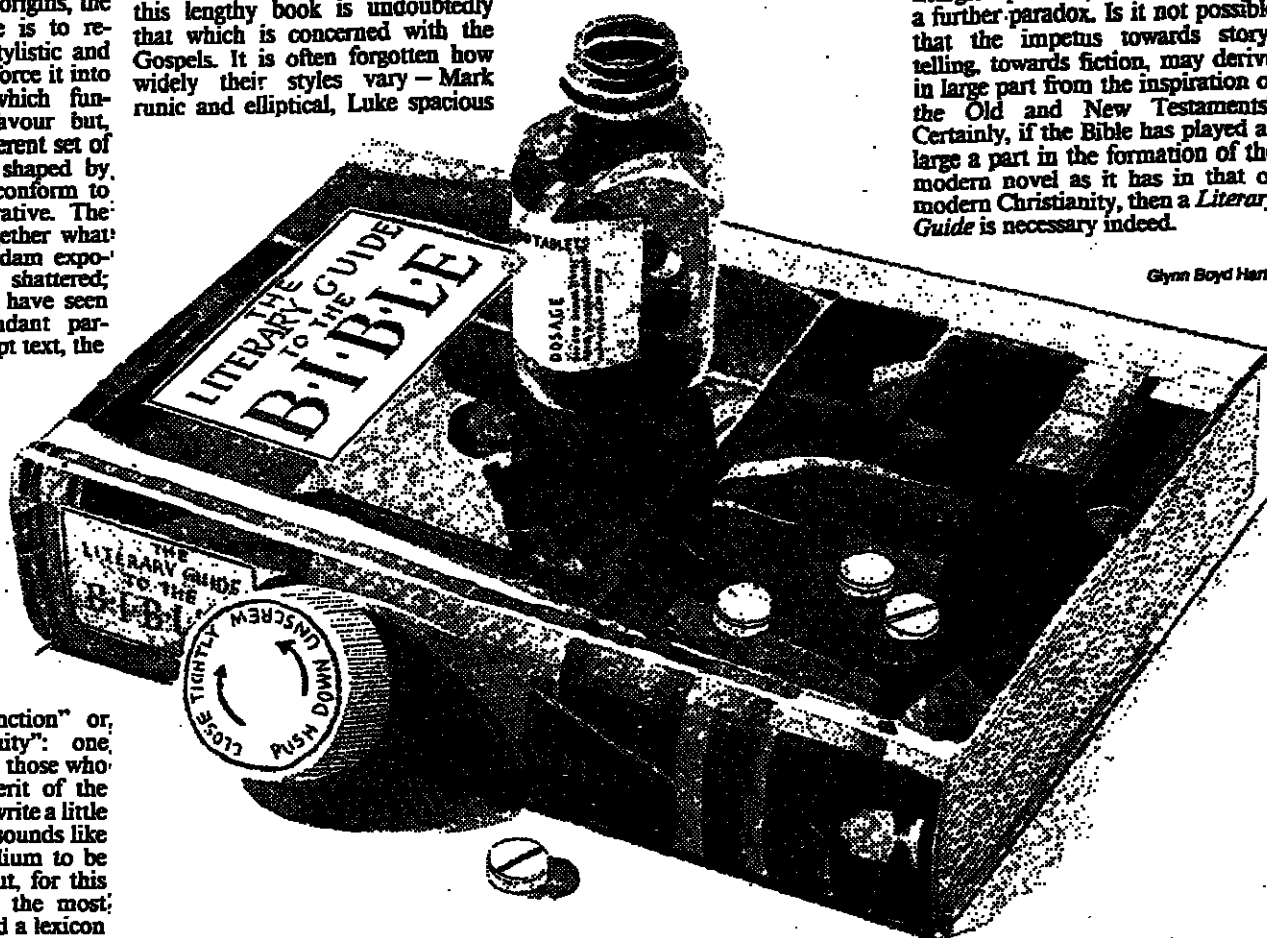
But the most interesting section of this lengthy book is undoubtedly that which is concerned with the Gospels. It is often forgotten how widely their styles vary — Mark runic and elliptical, Luke spacious

and magisterial — but the contributors to this second half of the volume go on to suggest how the style of each Gospel determines the nature of the truth being conveyed. Matthew is more concerned with seeing Jesus as the fulfilment of the Law, for example, while John is preoccupied with a cosmic vision of being and becoming, light and darkness. All this is well argued but, most importantly, the essayists here see the Gospels as only part of that long process of interpretation, plagiarism, allusion, and borrowing which has formed the present Bible.

In his introduction, Robert Alter in fact compares the Old Testament to *Ulysses*, and in that comparison we see what an ambiguous project the Word of God may become.

That is why it is particularly interesting to see how, in his essay on Mark, John Drury refers to the concept of God as "the master storyteller." The point about a story, of course, is that it need not necessarily be "true" to be effective, and to treat the Bible as literature may also be to discount its truth-giving powers. In his own piece on John, Frank Kermode even speculates on the possibility that the features "we admire in favoured novels owe a largely unconscious debt to ancient liturgical practice," and here may lie a further paradox. Is it not possible that the impetus towards storytelling, towards fiction, may derive in large part from the inspiration of the Old and New Testaments? Certainly, if the Bible has played as large a part in the formation of the modern novel as it has in that of modern Christianity, then a *Literary Guide* is necessary indeed.

Glynis Boyd Harris



Tintinnabular

Martin Spence

MR PUMP'S LEGACY
By Hergé
Methuen, £4.95

Tintin was Hergé's Christmas, the faceless incorruptible who fights the good fight alone. To Hergé's editors, he lacked *la légende*.

So they demanded a new *petit personnage*, with a father in regular work, a mother, a sister, and a less idiosyncratic pet than Snowy. The spot was the anonymous Jo, his sister Zette, and their monkey Jocko. Exasperated by the straitjacket, Hergé soon abandoned the enterprise. Last year, the inspired final album, *The Valley of the Cobras*, fell like a lead wellington into a sea of apathy. Undeterred, Methuen are now working backwards into the series with *Mr Pump's Legacy*.

The first three pages are worth having. John Archibald Pump is a cartoon of a cartoon: an extravagant millionaire speed fiend. He has his meals on a conveyor belt, takes slides instead of stairs, and requires his servants to use roller skates. Because he does not stop for death, it kindly stops for him, as he takes to the road at 155 mph. More haste more speed. Mr Pump is quick. Jo, Zette and Jocko are dead.

This is Hergé's logic.



Pumpmobile with skates on

When Joe Weizenbaum of MIT wrote his now famous conversational computer-program ELIZA, he gave it the role of a psychotherapist. The reason was simple — a psychotherapist in his professional capacity doesn't have to know anything. He merely reflects and queries whatever topics his client brings up. So the role can be sustained on a fairly limited database containing little more than a few rules of English grammar and a collection of linguistic tricks.

To Weizenbaum's utter consternation, ELIZA took off. It became amazingly popular and was taken amazingly seriously. Desperate hackers poured out their troubles to it. They couldn't believe — or didn't care — that the program was merely juggling words and had no idea what was going on.

ELIZA and its successors have done their bit to stimulate the current interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI), and its connection with the real thing. Indeed, the assertion of "Strong AI" is that ELIZA or a perfected version of it has just as good a claim to be conscious and intelligent as any human being. After all, the neurons in our own brains are also merely juggling nerve-impulses and have no idea what is going on.

This argument, and other aspects of intelligence, consciousness, and mentality, form the subject-matter of *Mindwaves*, edited by Colin Blakemore and Susan Greenfield (Blackwell, £19.50). Do not be taken in by the stupidly trendy title, which suggests some sort of occult-psychic forces crackpottery. Ignore the many irrelevant and silly illustrations (my favourite is a portrait of Ludwig Wittgenstein in *negative* — a subtle comment on his philosophy). *Mindwaves* is actually a serious and well-argued collection of individual essays grouped around five broad topics: personality, animal thought, mechanical thought, brain processes, and the nature of mind. Like the field it deals with, it is a sort of intellectual jig-saw puzzle of converging or conflicting arguments.

The several contributions

Books for Christmas

David Jones on science books about the mind's construction

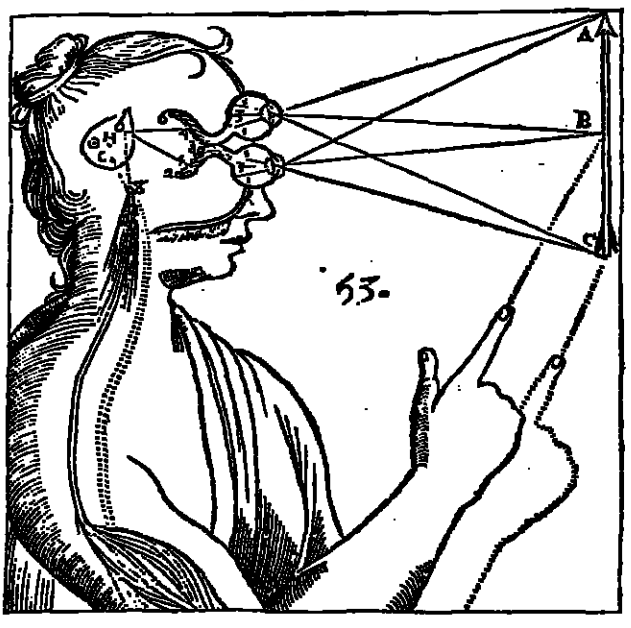
about how a computer (or a brain) could be conscious are to my mind unconvincing. For at present there is no theoretical reason to expect that any object constructed of physical atoms could have an internal mental state at all. This region of the jig-saw has at least one piece still missing.

● The After Death Experience, by Ian Wilson (Sligwick & Jackson, £12.95) offers to fill the gap with a piece that every contributor to *Mindwaves* would surely reject: the human soul. In a field littered with shards of crackpottery Wilson treads with commendable wariness. He acknowledges the many cases of fraud and scandal among spiritualists and mediums, but he is powerfully intrigued by several widely-observed aspects of the process of dying.

Those near death often show a sudden acceptance and serenity. They can seem telepathically aware of the thoughts and activities of

absent loved ones, and even of those already dead. People who have recovered or been resuscitated even from brain-dead coma have reported awareness of what was happening to them and around them at the time. Furthermore, many such reports take the form of the so-called out-of-body experience of seeming to look down on the abandoned body from above.

It is hard to know what to make of this sort of evidence. The dream of flying, after all, is one of the standard human hallucinations. The crucial test must be whether people in *extremis* can acquire true information not available to their bodily senses, or whether the living can acquire true information known only to the dead. In some of the cases here presented — but not many — these tests seem to have been met. This is a pretty frail basis for believing in a whole spirit-world inhabited by the souls of the departed.



Descartes' diagram of the influence of the soul on the brain

Do you really want to know about the French Revolution? Do you want to rethink it? Dr Comminel will tell you all about it and what to (re)think. "This" is the stress, he does a great deal of that. "Then was the origin of the Revolution: the crisis of a super-structure in transition." "On ultimate purpose," he says, "is to make sense of the French Revolution as a social phenomenon." And, towards the end, he comes up with: "The French Revolution was essentially an intraclass conflict." So that solves that and just as well, as a great many people have got it wrong.

Robin [a woman] "will be rejected on methodological grounds." Someone else — in this accessory chronicle, only surnames are permitted: Roy tops it with 57 (plus one Ray), Cobban scores 41, Meek (who doesn't sound it) 24, Postel-

History: Bad Marx

Richard Cobb

RETHINKING THE
FRENCH
REVOLUTION
Marxism and the
Revisionist Challenge
By George C. Comminel
Verso, £8.95

going dynamic of class history. [The stresses are the author's.] Much is made of "the groundwork." We have already encountered "Way 2", there is also "Way 1" ("Way 2" will get you there) and we hear of "the Trinity formula" (which, dutifully, makes three appearances). "This, then, was the origin of the Revolution:

the crisis of a superstructure in transition." He warns, in a moment of candour: "Structuralist Marxism can in fact be seen as an effort to eliminate the ambiguous status of historical truth."

There is something very chilling about that "ambiguous"; there are, too, pretty frightening labels: conservative, radical democratic, and petty bourgeois social-radical, as if Dr Comminel had taken as a model of his prose style the language of Vishinsky in the great purge trials of the late 1930s. All in all, History is in for a pretty bad time.

Even the surnames are bleak and cheerless: Sweazy & Dobb ("the cele-

Tough guy
topicals

THRILLERS

Tim Heald

AT CLOSE
QUARTERS
By Gerald Seymour
Collins Harvill, £10.95

Curious style, Seymour's. Take the ambassador's murder: "He stared at the man. He stared at the barrel of the rifle. No longer slow movement, the moment the world stopped."

Effective? Or merely contrived? How about this reaction, when our man with a gun, ageing professional sniper, on suicidal mission into the Bega's valley is confronted with the notion that he ought to be wearing specs if he is to have any chance of hitting his target? "Crane's tongue was rolling inside his cheeks, like he was cleaning his teeth with his tongue, like the action was a toothpaste substitute."

The intention, I think, is to give the narrative an extra "tough guy" quality, but it doesn't always work, and when it doesn't it can become irritating. One may need a sense that the story is being told by a Colonel Oliver North/Roy of the Rovers done, but it shouldn't infect the prose beyond a certain point.

That's only a minor quibble in what is otherwise a taut, straightforward tale of a quest for vengeance. Bright young diplomat posted to Moscow, sees boss and girl friend gunned down by dark-skinned bastard with crow's foot scar. Happy coincidence of young man's wish for revenge and national need. Assigned to cynical old lag, given crash course in survival techniques, and off he goes to look for dark-skinned assassins with unique scars.

The politicians are incredibly devious; the Israeli Intelligence man incredibly tough; his lady assistant, with whom our hero has brief but delicious sex ("He felt the lovely comfort of her against his body"), incredibly desirable; the British intelligence man incredibly drunk; the Arab terrorists incredibly vile. The old sniper is incredibly experienced, incredibly cynical, but has an incredibly golden heart; and our hero is just, well, incredibly incredible.

● Clare Francis has had tough experiences in real life, and *Wolf Winter* (Heinemann, £10.95) is at its best when its fantastically cold and the hero's only choice is between "the quick agony of blood-poisoning and the slow business of starvation." Not so hot in bed where the demon lover has his wicked way with the beautiful Ragna and finally "carried her over and beyond the last restraints." What can this mean and why precisely does Berg feel "vaguely disappointed, even let down?"

The action concerns espionage in the frozen North — betrayals which have their root in an enigmatic incident at the end of the war, high in the Lyngen Alps. The little flashback to 1945 is one of the best things in the book. The

main action concerns secret missions over the Soviet border, a seductive secretary in a sensitive post, the fair deal for Lapps, movement, nuclear submarines, and terminal sickness among musk-oxen.

I would have cut it by at least a third, taken a hard look at some of the one-line paragraphs and one-word sentences, and a blue pencil to the novelistic clichés. If I were her publisher I should strongly advise this author to stay — in fiction — permanently out of doors, preferably in very bad weather where it is too noisy to have a conversation.

● Ah Haggard, old chap. Good to see you again and glad to see you still chattering along so agreeably. Sorry though that Colonel Russell seems to have pushed off for good. Still, his protégé, the Harrovian Sooty, Willy Smith, makes a perfectly acceptable substitute, and I was delighted to find Lord George in such good form. (Trust him to know the best restaurant in Oxford.)

The story in William Haggard's *The Diplomat* (Hodder & Stoughton, £9.95) is about another of these unspeakable Arabs who are the leading villains of the contemporary thriller, and how he captures the PM and his flighty wife during the village fête. For me, the story is the least of my concerns; the pleasure lies in the smooth lean prose and particularly the laconic, snobbish, old-fashioned spade-calling asides. It's just like having a particularly good clubland lunch with your very favourite retired major.

● Anthony Price is that comparative rarity in the world of thrillers — a hundred per cent proper author who understands the craft. Where others assemble books from some dismal Lego set of stock situations and standard settings, Price actually writes them with an ear for real dialogue, an eye for real people, and, above all, a command of real English.

In *A New Kind of War* (Gollancz, £10.95) he describes a peculiarly barmy British Army Unit charged with a peculiarly unpleasant mopping-up task in occupied Germany immediately after the end of the war. Romans, archaeology, and the sub-text of military life are all woven into an intriguing story which becomes murkier with every twist. I thought Colonel, first observed in his cold bath boring on about the Romans just like a demented Literary Editor, was a fine cameo.

NEW BOOKS

- The Literary Editor's selection of silly titles of the year:
- Aromanticism, Acid Zest, Romance and Fun to Life with Nature's Quintessential Oils*, by Valerie Ann Wormwood (Pan, £4.95)
 - Eminent Unphilosophers*, by Bryan Matthews (Neville & Harding, £8.50)
 - Genetic Engineering for Almost Everybody*, by William Bains (Penguin, £4.95)
 - Get More From Your Deep Fat Fryer*, by Petra Kuhne (W. Foulsham & Co., £2.95)
 - Jesus Lived in India, His Unknown Life Before and After the Crucifixion*, by Holger Kersten (Element Books, £5.95)
 - Learned Pigs and Fireproof Women*, by Ricky Jay (Robert Hale, £12.95)
 - Meditations for Eagles*, by Kathleen J. Smith (The Creative Centre, £1.80)
 - Neurosis Induced Cannibalism in Antarctic Pigs*, by P. Trötter (Ogwyn Press, £5.95)
 - Seaweed, A User's Guide*, by Sonia Sury-Gent & Gordon Morris (Whitby Books, £9.95)
 - Shape Shifters, Shaman Women in Contemporary Society*, by Michele Jamal (Arkana Press, £5.95)
 - Taxidermy, The Revival of a Natural Art*, by Christopher Stoute (The Sportsman's Press, £10.95)
 - The Complete Hedgehog*, by Les Stockton (Chatto, £8.95)
 - The Doll Who Ate His Mother*, by Ramsey Campbell (Century Hutchinson, £10.95)
 - The Mental State of Stuart Women*, by Sara Heller Mendelsohn (Harvester, £19.95)
 - The Point of Acupuncture*, by Hugh Franks (The Book Guild, £7.50)
 - Toy Boys Are More Fun*, by Lynne Mullan (Arrow, £2.95)
 - Tragic Ways of Killing a Woman*, by Nicole Loraux, translated by Anthony Forster (Harvard, £14.50)

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J. H. C. Leach TLS 8th August 1986

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by Pierre Grimal. Translated by A. R. Macdonell-Ryland

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CHRISTMAS EVE TV AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle



From left: EastEnders BBC1, 7.30pm. Lenny Henry, BBC1, 8.00pm. Warner Baxter in 42nd Street, C4, 2.50pm. Vanessa Redgrave: The Bostonians, BBC2, 10.25pm. Mathewy Reeves, Deafblind Elliott: Child's Christmas in Wales, ITV, 9.30am

BBC1

6.00 *Casualty*. A 15-minute episode of the popular medical drama.

6.30 *Clark and McCulloch in a Pig's Eye* (b/w). A 15-minute episode of the comedy series.

7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.

8.30 *Going for Gold* presented by Henry Kelly (r). A 30-minute regional news and weather.

9.00 News and weather followed by *Newsnight* (r). A 30-minute news and current affairs programme.

9.30 *Why Don't You...?* Entertaining ideas for children at a local and 8.30. Directed by Stewart. A 30-minute children's programme.

10.00 News and weather 10.05. *Babar and Father Christmas* (r). A 30-minute children's programme.

10.55 *Five to Eleven*. A Christmas reading by Laurence Olivier 11.00. News and weather followed by *Flare* (r). A 30-minute children's programme.

11.00 *The Lenny Henry Christmas Special*. A 30-minute comedy special.

11.30 *The First Communion* of Clara. A 30-minute religious drama.

12.30 *Weather*.

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-act includes cartoons and other family entertainment including, between 7.00 and 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30, *Good Morning Britain*.

6.25 *Thames news headlines*.

6.30 *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. A 30-minute children's programme.

6.50 *Jim's Fix It for Christmas*. A 30-minute children's programme.

7.00 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

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12.00 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

12.30 *Weather*.

Writings in the wall

TELEVISION CHOICE

A batch of love letters found hidden in the wall of a barn by a Yorkshire farmer in 1976 are the inspiration for Brian Thompson's drama-documentary, *Paper Kisses* (BBC2, 7.00pm). The letters were written by Lizzie Sutcliffe, a poor spinster in domestic service, to Tom Anderson, a tenant farmer, and they chart the bumpy and often painful progress of a Victorian love affair. The couple first met in 1889, in the Anderson family's home town of Carleton in north Yorkshire. Both were approaching 40 and he came from an eccentric family whose mother had made her children promise not to marry. Whether the force of this promise was the key to Tom's conduct during the relationship must be a matter for conjecture, for his letters to Lizzie have not survived. What is clear is that he had to make all the running, constantly pleading with him to name the wedding day and even buying her own engagement ring. The affair was complicated by the fact while Tom farmed in Carleton, Lizzie was living 30 miles away in Blackburn and over a period of 27 months they were able to meet only a dozen times. Even so, he treated her badly, prompting her cry: "I cannot keep going on paper kisses". She pursued him all the same, and her very last letter is typical of so many: an attempt to pin him down over

producing happiness for either party. Rosalind Elliot, as Lizzie, skilfully conveys the anguish of a plain, ordinary woman, afraid of being left on the shelf, who for four years lived in the limbo of being neither spinster nor wife.

Priddy the Hedgehog (BBC2, 8.00pm) is another outstanding wildlife film from the father and son team of John and Simon King. Their camera followed Priddy, an energetic female of the species, over ten months in the Mendip Hills and the results should give universal delight.

Peter Waymark

John Hallam and Rosalind Elliot in *Paper Kisses*, the story of a tragic love affair: on BBC2, at 7.00pm

BBC2

9.00 *Casualty*. A 15-minute episode of the popular medical drama.

9.30 *Clark and McCulloch in a Pig's Eye* (b/w). A 15-minute episode of the comedy series.

10.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 10.00, 10.30, 11.00 and 11.30; regional news and travel reports at 10.15, 10.45 and 11.15; weather at 10.25, 10.55 and 11.25.

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12.00 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

12.30 *Weather*.

CHANNEL 4

9.25 *The Creation*. Handel's oratorio recorded at the Old University in Vienna featuring the Munich Chamber Choir and Collegium Aureum. 11.50. Christmas Crackers.

10.10 *Flare* (r). A 30-minute children's programme.

10.40 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

11.00 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

11.30 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

12.00 *News* with Moira Stuart. A 30-minute news programme.

12.30 *Weather*.

BBC1 WALES 6.15-6.30 Wales Today 12.35pm-12.40 News and weather 6.30-6.35 Wales Today 6.35-6.40 Wales Today 6.40-6.45 Wales Today 6.45-6.50 Wales Today 6.50-6.55 Wales Today 6.55-7.00 Wales Today 7.00-7.05 Wales Today 7.05-7.10 Wales Today 7.10-7.15 Wales Today 7.15-7.20 Wales Today 7.20-7.25 Wales Today 7.25-7.30 Wales Today 7.30-7.35 Wales Today 7.35-7.40 Wales Today 7.40-7.45 Wales Today 7.45-7.50 Wales Today 7.50-7.55 Wales Today 7.55-8.00 Wales Today 8.00-8.05 Wales Today 8.05-8.10 Wales Today 8.10-8.15 Wales Today 8.15-8.20 Wales Today 8.20-8.25 Wales Today 8.25-8.30 Wales Today 8.30-8.35 Wales Today 8.35-8.40 Wales Today 8.40-8.45 Wales Today 8.45-8.50 Wales Today 8.50-8.55 Wales Today 8.55-9.00 Wales Today 9.00-9.05 Wales Today 9.05-9.10 Wales Today 9.10-9.15 Wales Today 9.15-9.20 Wales Today 9.20-9.25 Wales Today 9.25-9.30 Wales Today 9.30-9.35 Wales Today 9.35-9.40 Wales Today 9.40-9.45 Wales Today 9.45-9.50 Wales Today 9.50-9.55 Wales Today 9.55-10.00 Wales Today 10.00-10.05 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Today 9.15-9.20 Wales Today 9.20-9.25 Wales Today 9.25-9.30 Wales Today 9.30-9.35 Wales Today 9.35-9.40 Wales Today 9.40-9.45 Wales Today 9.45-9.50 Wales Today 9.50-9.55 Wales Today 9.55-10.00 Wales Today 10.00-10.05 Wales Today 1

COMMENT

Unravelling the G7 Christmas stocking

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interest

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 75.4 (day's range 75.4-75.6)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 23

	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New Yrk	1,819.0-1,826.5	1,820.1-1,822.5	0.07-0.04p	0.40-0.37p
Monrpt	2,375.1-2,381.2	2,375.1-2,380.2	per-0.17p	0.06p-0.17p
Amsterd	3,359.0-3,371.0	3,359.0-3,363.5	1% 1/2p	3% 1/2p
Brussels	62.24-62.64	62.24-62.61	15-17p	43-22p
Copenhgn	11,461.5-11,532.2	11,462.4-11,514.45	per-14d	1-22d
Hank	102.1-102.61	102.1-102.27	25-23p	25-23p
Frankfr	2,194.5-2,192.2	2,194.5-2,198.2	15-14p	4-24p
London	240.37-241.30	240.37-241.32	121-100d	340-489d
Madrid	102.1-102.61	102.1-102.27	25-23p	25-23p
Milan	218.52-220.03	218.52-219.12	1-4p	5-18p
Osaka	11,918.9-11,703.8	11,918.9-11,854.0	53b-70d	177k-190d
Paris	10,072.0-10,113.0	10,072.0-10,059.0	per-14d	1-22d
Sao Paulo	110,980.0-10,980.0	110,980.0-10,942.1	1-4p	5-18p
Tokyo	2,689.0-2,691.7	2,689.0-2,691.7	15-14p	4-24p
Vienna	201.0-201.56	201.0-201.56	9-10p	23k-20p
Zurich	2,410.4-2,421.1	2,410.4-2,421.1	15-14p	3k-24p

Premiums on p. Discount on d.s.

OTHER STERLING RATES	
Argentina auster	— 8,316.4-8,412.5
Australia auster	— 8,252.0-8,312.5
Bahian drwr	— 8,065.0-8,090.0
Brazil cruzeiro	— 125.70-126.40
Ceylon pound	— 8,052.0-8,075.0
Poland marci	— 1,756-7.4
Greece drachma	— 238.25-239.25
Hong Kong dollar	— 14,100.4-14,101.4
India rupee	— 23.65-23.65
Korean drwr KD	— 0.4975-0.5010
Malaysia dollar	— 4,556.4-4,541.0
Mexico peso	— 39.80-40.48
New Zealand dollar	— 2,800.0-2,800.0
Philippine peso	— 25.50-25.50
Singapore dollar	— 2,549.5-2,549.5
S. Africa rand (m)	— 5,836.9-5,741.0
S. Africa rand (com)	— 3,551.3-3,549.0
U.A.E. dirham	— 5,697.2-5,727.0

*Lloyds Bank London & Export and Barclays Bank HOPEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1,819.0-1,820.0	Denmark	6,326.0-6,307.5	Italy	192.0-190.0
Switzerland	1,820.0-1,820.0	W Germany	1,820.0-1,840.0	Belgium (Com)	34.27-34.34
France	2,402.0-2,404.0	Switzerland	1,821.0-1,822.5	Hong Kong	77.70-77.78
Canada	0.12-0.13	Australia	1,820.0-1,840.0	Spain	111.05-111.05
Japan	2,400.0-2,400.0	Japan	128.05-127.00	Portugal	1,775.0-1,775.0
Norway	6,350.0-6,350.0			Austria	11,52.0-11,52.0

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Ecolat.

MONEY MARKETS

Bank Rates % Clearing Banks 5% Finance Hse 5% Discount Market Loans % Overnight High % Low 6 Week Bids %					Dollar Cds % 1 mth 8.20-8.15 3 mth 7.60-7.75 6 mth 7.00-7.15 12 mth 8.10-8.05				
Treasury Bills (Discount %)					EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%					Currency				
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)					7 day 1 mth 3 mth 6 mth				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%									

Trade Bills (Discount %)					Deutschmarks				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%					5k-4k 1k-7k 3k-1k 5k-3k				
Local Authority Deposits (%)					French Francs				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%					Cdk 15-1k				
Local Authority Bonds (%)					Cdk 3k-2k				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%					5k-4k 4k-4k 4k-4k 4k-4k				

Local Authority Bonds (%)					Swiss Francs				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%					Cdk 15-1k				
Sterling Cds (%)					Cdk 3k-2k				
1 mth 8 1/2% 3 mth 8 1/2% 6 mth 8 1/2% 12 mth 8 1/2%					5k-4k 4k-4k 4k-4k 4k-4k				

ECGD

Fixed Rate Shipping Export Finance. Make-up due November 30, 1987. Agreed until October 26, 1987				
Nov. 1987: 10% 1/2p				

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If a number, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	High	Chemicals/Pet	
2	ES	Industrial E-K	
3	Westworth (ns)	Drugs/Stores	
4	Auto Sc	Electronics	
5	Canary F	Property	
6	Channon St	Industrial A-D	
7	Forward (ns)	Electronics	
8	Old Scientific	Electronics	
9	Frederick Hg	Building/Roads	
10	Eastern Prod	Industrial E-K	
11	Grand Met (ns)	Hotels/Caterers	
12	Courts (Firm) A	Drugs/Stores	
13	Mosco Leisure	Leisure	
14	NW Comp	Electronics	
15	Union TV	Electronics	
16	Cycle	Oil & Gas	
17	LDH	Industrial E-K	
18	Bauer	Industrial A-D	
19	Scott Horrible	Industrial S-Z	
20	Bolton	Electronics	
21	Brant Walker	Leisure	
22	King & Sherson	Bank/Discount	
23	Hambro	Bank/Discount	
24	Ayrshire Metal	Industrial A-D	
25	Tronkline (FH)	Industrial S-Z	
26	Kenwood	Electronics	
27	Hay (Norman)	Industrial E-K	
28	Lox Refrigeration	Electronics	
29	Assoc Newspaper	Newspapers/Pub	
30	Smith David	Paper/Print/Adv	
31	RMC Gp (ns)	Building/Roads	
32	Stavely	Industrial S-Z	
33	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
34	Mangrove Brown	Industrial E-K	
35	Wilson (Connolly)	Building/Roads	
36	Portals	Industrial E-K	
37	Rolls-Royce (ns)	Motor/Aircraft	
38	Rothchild (J) HM	Bank/Discount	
39	Ryan	Drugs/Stores	
40	Allied Text	Textiles	
41	Coat	Industrial S-Z	
42	TIT	Industrial S-Z	
43	Regalia	Property	
44	Collins (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
45	Times Newspaper Ltd	Daily Times	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change %

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
1	High
2	ES
3	Westworth (ns)
4	Auto Sc
5	Canary F
6	Channon St
7	Forward (ns)
8	Old Scientific
9	Frederick Hg
10	Eastern Prod
11	Grand Met (ns)
12	Courts (Firm) A
13	Mosco Leisure
14	NW Comp
15	Union TV
16	Cycle
17	LDH
18	Bauer
19	Scott Horrible
20	Bolton
21	Brant Walker
22	King & Sherson
23	Hambro
24	Ayrshire Metal
25	Tronkline (FH)
26	Kenwood
27	Hay (Norman)
28	Lox Refrigeration
29	Assoc Newspaper
30	Smith David
31	RMC Gp (ns)
32	Stavely
33	Church Charles
34	Mangrove Brown
35	Wilson (Connolly)
36	Portals
37	Rolls-Royce (ns)
38	Rothchild (J) HM
39	Ryan
40	Allied Text
41	Coat
42	TIT
43	Regalia
44	Collins (Wm)
45	Times Newspaper Ltd

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1	High
2	ES
3	Westworth (ns)
4	Auto Sc
5	Canary F
6	Channon St
7	Forward (ns)
8	Old Scientific
9	Frederick Hg
10	Eastern Prod
11	Grand Met (ns)
12	Courts (Firm) A
13	Mosco Leisure
14	NW Comp
15	Union TV
16	Cycle
17	LDH
18	Bauer
19	Scott Horrible
20	Bolton
21	Brant Walker
22	King & Sherson
23	Hambro
24	Ayrshire Metal
25	Tronkline (FH)
26	Kenwood
27	Hay (Norman)
28	Lox Refrigeration
29	Assoc Newspaper
30	Smith David
31	RMC Gp (ns)
32	Stavely
33	Church Charles
34	Mangrove Brown
35	Wilson (Connolly)
36	Portals
37	Rolls-Royce (ns)
38	Rothchild (J) HM
39	Ryan
40	Allied Text
41	Coat
42	TIT
43	Regalia
44	Collins (Wm)
45	Times Newspaper Ltd

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1	High
2	ES
3	Westworth (ns)
4	Auto Sc
5	Canary F
6	Channon St
7	Forward (ns)
8	Old Scientific
9	Frederick Hg
10	Eastern Prod
11	Grand Met (ns)
12	Courts (Firm) A
13	Mosco Leisure
14	NW Comp
15	Union TV
16	Cycle
17	LDH
18	Bauer
19	Scott Horrible
20	Bolton
21	Brant Walker
22	King & Sherson
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26	Kenwood
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28	Lox Refrigeration
29	Assoc Newspaper
30	Smith David
31	RMC Gp (ns)
32	Stavely
33	Church Charles
34	Mangrove Brown
35	Wilson (Connolly)
36	Portals
37	Rolls-Royce (ns)
38	Rothchild (J) HM
39	Ryan
40	Allied Text
41	Coat
42	TIT
43	Regalia
44	Collins (Wm)
45	Times Newspaper Ltd

UNDATED

1	High
2	ES
3	Westworth (ns)
4	Auto Sc
5	Canary F
6	Channon St
7	Forward (ns)
8	Old Scientific
9	Frederick Hg
10	Eastern Prod
11	Grand Met (ns)
12	Courts (Firm) A
13	Mosco Leisure
14	NW Comp
15	Union TV
16	Cycle
17	LDH
18	Bauer
19	Scott Horrible
20	Bolton
21	Brant Walker
22	King & Sherson
23	Hambro
24	Ayrshire Metal
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26	Kenwood
27	Hay (Norman)
28	Lox Refrigeration
29	Assoc Newspaper
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32	Stavely
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34	Mangrove Brown
35	Wilson (Connolly)
36	Portals
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38	Rothchild (J) HM
39	Ryan
40	Allied Text
41	Coat
42	TIT
43	Regalia
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45	Times Newspaper Ltd

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began December 21. Dealings end January 8. Contango day January 11. Settlement day January 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 22.)

1987	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Vol	P/E
1	10.50	10.40	High	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
2	10.50	10.40	ES	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
3	10.50	10.40	Westworth (ns)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
4	10.50	10.40	Auto Sc	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
5	10.50	10.40	Canary F	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
6	10.50	10.40	Channon St	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
7	10.50	10.40	Forward (ns)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
8	10.50	10.40	Old Scientific	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
9	10.50	10.40	Frederick Hg	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
10	10.50	10.40	Eastern Prod	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
11	10.50	10.40	Grand Met (ns)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
12	10.50	10.40	Courts (Firm) A	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
13	10.50	10.40	Mosco Leisure	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
14	10.50	10.40	NW Comp	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
15	10.50	10.40	Union TV	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
16	10.50	10.40	Cycle	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
17	10.50	10.40	LDH	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
18	10.50	10.40	Bauer	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
19	10.50	10.40	Scott Horrible	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
20	10.50	10.40	Bolton	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
21	10.50	10.40	Brant Walker	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
22	10.50	10.40	King & Sherson	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
23	10.50	10.40	Hambro	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
24	10.50	10.40	Ayrshire Metal	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
25	10.50	10.40	Tronkline (FH)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
26	10.50	10.40	Kenwood	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
27	10.50	10.40	Hay (Norman)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
28	10.50	10.40	Lox Refrigeration	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
29	10.50	10.40	Assoc Newspaper	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
30	10.50	10.40	Smith David	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
31	10.50	10.40	RMC Gp (ns)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
32	10.50	10.40	Stavely	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
33	10.50	10.40	Church Charles	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
34	10.50	10.40	Mangrove Brown	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
35	10.50	10.40	Wilson (Connolly)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
36	10.50	10.40	Portals	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
37	10.50	10.40	Rolls-Royce (ns)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
38	10.50	10.40	Rothchild (J) HM	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
39	10.50	10.40	Ryan	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
40	10.50	10.40	Allied Text	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
41	10.50	10.40	Coat	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
42	10.50	10.40	TIT	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
43	10.50	10.40	Regalia	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
44	10.50	10.40	Collins (Wm)	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0
45	10.50	10.40	Times Newspaper Ltd	10.45	+0.05	+0.5	100	15.0

BREWERIES									
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GENERAL APPOINTMENTS



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a) General Organisation (Re:EXT/182) is concerned with improving structural and workflow organisation, and ensuring optimum personnel deployment, use of equipment and management methods.

b) Systems Development (Re:EXT/183) involves the design and execution of economically efficient workflow systems in an office, administrative and management environment, using modern data-processing, office and communications technology.

The emphasis is on the design, implementation and scrutinising of business management systems required to solve organisational and technical problems calling for close co-operation with the specialist departments concerned.

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The Institute employs approximately 200 internationally recruited and 1200 locally recruited staff.

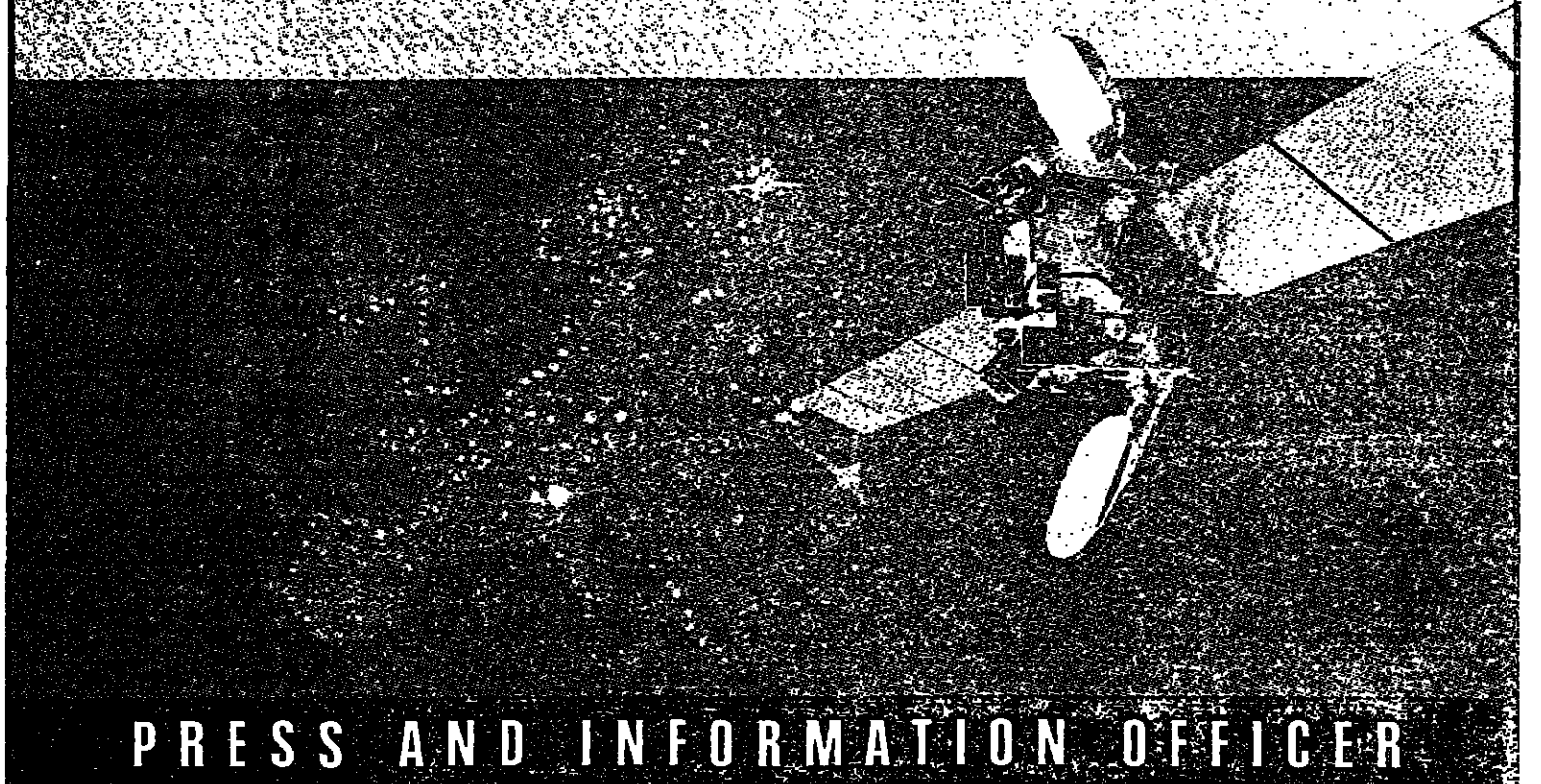
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THE DESTINY OF EUROPE IS WRITTEN IN THE STARS



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EUTELSAT

RUGBY UNION: WELSH SELECTORS HAVE PLENTY OF TALENT AVAILABLE BEHIND THE SCRUM BUT UNRESOLVED PROBLEMS LOOM AT LOCK FORWARD

Unfit Carr to miss Baa-baas match

By David Hands

Nigel Carr, the Irish flanker, has withdrawn from the Barbarians side which will play Leicester in the annual holiday fixture at Welford Road next Monday. Carr has not recovered sufficient fitness after suffering multiple injuries during a terrorist car-bomb blast last April.

The Ards player has been able to train this season and was hopeful that he would have been playing club rugby by now. But he still has pain in his ankle and knee and would rather wait longer than put everything to the test in a game which, even if it is frequently played in a carnival atmosphere, is no place for the less-than-fit.

The Barbarians are looking at a Welsh replacement for Carr while Leicester, their opponents, will know today whether Kennedy can take his place at scrum-half. He damaged a knee playing at Blackheath earlier this month and was due to have a fitness test last night.

Should he fail, Leicester are in the happy position of being able to call upon Youngs, capped six times by England in 1983-4, instead. Youngs played remarkably well during the win over Bristol last weekend, considering his lack of recent first-team match play, and all Leicester's divisional players will be back to assist him.

He will also have the comfort of having behind him Hare, who remains, in certain aspects of the game, the premier full back in the country. His line-kicking against Bristol was described by one who has watched him throughout his entire playing career as "better than ever". Webb, Bristol's full back, will be able to study the master at close range since he is due to play for the Barbarians on Monday.

Clifton play critical role in Halliday's build up for the trial

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Simon Halliday, last seen limping off the Bristol Memorial ground with a strained hamstring after some 30 minutes of divisional rugby, will return to action on Bath's behalf on Saturday in the annual holiday game against Clifton.

He is the only regular first-team player in the Bath XV (though an interesting newcomer, Brian Gilchrist, the Cambridge University hooker, makes his debut), and his presence has less to do with the opposition Clifton will provide than the necessity to have a good workout before England's trial at Twickenham on January 2.

Halliday is confident that the rest he has had over the last two weekends – while the South-West were losing to,

respectively, the North and London – has allowed the injury to mend and that he will be taking his place in England's senior side against the B XV.

Potentially the centre pairing between Halliday, who turns the scales at nearly 14st, and John Buckton, has a lot to offer. Halliday's talent for the game is more obvious – the strength, the scything run – while Buckton is good at putting the ball down the line, yet has the pace to support anything his partner may conceive.

In Wales, Tony Gray, the national coach, has appealed once again for leading players to reduce their match commitments. "Our World Cup experiences made our players realise there is a lot of catching

up to do in terms of fitness, strength and mobility," Gray said. "We have scheduled extra squad sessions to work on those things and it is also up to the players to work on those things themselves."

At least David Richards, Gray's colleague on the Welsh selection panel, is optimistic about the talent available in certain areas: "Apart from France we have as much talent as anyone in the world behind the scrum," he said, suggesting that there were perhaps 15 players bidding for places in the Welsh back division with exciting abilities.

Where Wales are so thin on the ground is locks, which makes it all the more curious that Phil May, of Llanelli, has never been capped. He came close last season and has performed as well as ever this season, even at the age of 32. "In all the games we have played," Gareth Jenkins, Llanelli's coach, said, "no body has proved better at the front of the lineout than Phil May."

A leg injury may keep him out of Saturday's game at Stradey Park against London Welsh but Richard Moriarty, the Welsh captain during the World Cup, will play at lock for Swansea against Glamorgan Wanderers, hoping to prove his fitness before the announcement next Wednesday of the Welsh trial sides.



Workout: Halliday hoping for good test against Clifton

Crawshaw's sevens victory opens the door to Dubai

By Gerald Davies

The chances are that the Dubai sevens will be extended in the future, according to the secretary of the Welsh Crawshaw's club, Russell Jenkins, who returned from the Gulf after his club had taken part in the tournament, which is in its eighteenth year. His club won the splendid silver Dhow Trophy in the Dubai Open.

"It was the first time that a Welsh club had taken part," Jenkins said. "And the chances are that further invitations will be extended in future. It was a well-run competition with very much a family atmosphere to the whole event. They would like to follow the pattern of the Hong Kong sevens, which began very modestly but is now a major event."

The Irish Wolfhounds and a team based on the Leicester club had been invited this year but the Irish trial, and the English divisional championship held last weekend, forced the original plans to be changed, though they were represented in modified form under the names of the Sharringtons and the Debs (Dubai Exiles Barbarians team). Make what you will of that but they included a cluster of international players from these islands whereas France, Australia and New Zealand were represented as the Warblers.

The Crawshaw's beat the Sharringtons in the final, 28-8, the latter having beaten to great applause the Warblers in a sudden-death semi-final. The Warblers had won the competition for the last three years.

"The teams played on rolled sand and Alan Brennan, the Maestri's quarter, who had a good tournament, blamed it to playing on sand," Jenkins said. "And that is the main point that needs to be

corrected if they are to expand the competition. They are aware of this and plans are already underway to provide proper pitches."

"The president of the Dubai Exiles Rugby Club is Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the minister of defence for the United Arab Emirates and is very keen on sport."

Already he has plans for a power boat championship, although they may have to shelve this particular proposal for a while seeing that the region is not exactly best suited for marine activities at the moment. He would like the sevens competition to become more international and appreciates the need therefore for at least two grass pitches. With the amount of water required they would prove very costly to maintain but there are plans to do so.

There were two tournaments held over two days and they attracted 4,000 spectators, from around the Gulf. The Dubai Open, which invited teams from outside the region, and the Gulf championship, for the Dubai Trophy, for which the Gulf-qualified teams compete. As well as Crawshaw's, there was the additional incentive that the winners go to the Hong Kong Sevens in March.

All in all it was a successful venture which Glyn Bidder, the Welsh rugby union member who acted as secretary. There was the Dubai trophy and the Dubai Exiles rugby club and did not have, as I rashly concluded last week, to persuade the finance committee to dip into the coffers of his union.

Morrow wins the day

By George Ace

Bangor 18
Ards 9

Bangor set up a meeting on February 5 with Old Wesley for the unofficial title of All-Ireland champions under lights when they defeated Ards in the Boston Cup final, sponsored by Smithwick's, at Uppichard Park, by one goal and three tries to one goal and one penalty.

Ahead 14-0 at the interval, Bangor's eighth win in the competition since its inception

in 1974 and their third in succession looked a formality. But Ards had other ideas and a try by Hooks, the former Ireland wing, converted by McLoughlin, gave Ards hope and a penalty by McLoughlin brought them back into the match.

Morrow, an Irish trialist last Saturday and holder of three caps, clinched the victory for Bangor with an unconverted try five minutes from no-side.

SCORERS: Bangor: Tries: McLoughlin, Morrow, Smithwick's; Goals: Elliott, Ards: Try: Hooks. Conversion: McLoughlin. Penalty: McLoughlin.

SPORTS LETTERS

Gatting was in abnormal circumstances

From Mr Reg Hayter
Sir, Mr Alan Herd's criticism of the Test and County Cricket Board (December 19) over its alleged insensitivity, particularly regarding its treatment of Ian Botham as against its treatment of Mike Gatting and his colleagues, recently returned from Pakistan, makes good reading.

Like Alan, I, too, was closely associated with Ian Botham over a number of years and, while I had every reason to sympathise with Ian on many issues, I believe that Mr Herd is being manifestly unfair on the TCCB.

To my mind, there is simply no comparison between the two situations. Whatever and whenever Ian did anything which appeared to transgress the standards required, his actions were in normal circumstances.

The circumstances in Pakistan were completely abnormal and the TCCB has clearly shown that, while it cannot condone dissent from England cricketers, the players had its overwhelming sympathy.

Provocation beyond the call of duty – nothing less. That is what they had to endure. From all accounts, well before the end of the tour the players were completely depressed, with their confidence shattered, and with the belief that the Pakistan administrators had been out to wreck the tour from the start growing stronger every day.

Admittedly, the players breached their contracts by issuing a public statement to the Press. But those who drew up the terms of the contract never for one moment visualised the strain to which England and players would be subjected. Surely that is why the milk of human kindness resulted in no action being taken against them?

Should manager Lush have fined Broad for not walking in the first Test? Perhaps, in retrospect, Mr Lush would agree he should have done so. But, at the time, possibly he just hadn't the heart to kick a man who was down.

Have a heart, Mr Herd. These were abnormal circumstances and, when these obtain, surely we abide by the spirit and not the letter.

Yours faithfully,
REG HAYTER,
4-5 Gough Square, ECA,
December 22.

Mr Tom Clough points out that his letter which appeared in our columns last week should have referred to two Australian doctors playing in the University rugby match, and not, as appeared, two Australian doctors.

Students in touch
From Mr Terry Burwell
Sir, At a time of declining standards of behaviour on sporting fields the world over it is gratifying to note the lead our Universities are showing for the Rule of Law and Sportsmanship.

There can be no doubt that O.U.'s first try in this year's Varsity Match was prefaced

Drug-testing needs independent body

From Dr Martyn T. Lucking
Sir, I have read with considerable interest the series of articles about insider dealing, football, drug-testing, the revelations, although not unexpected, may well turn out to be an important milestone in the story of drug abuse in sport.

Together with other members of the International Athletics Club (IAC), I promoted and pioneered the need for and mechanism of year round sports testing. I helped the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) formulate their plans for spot-testing. They are largely based on the IAC pilot scheme. One of the recommendations to BAAB was that the administration of all testing should be entirely

separate (both for individuals and location) to the Board. This was ignored.

The only way forward is to establish an entirely separate organisation, whose integrity must be seen to be beyond doubt, for the management of testing at events and year-round spot-testing.

Such a body could well oversee testing in all sports and be funded by the same Government grants through Sports Council, perhaps the International Olympic Committee, rather than IAAF, which would be a better body through which international testing could be arranged.

Yours faithfully,
MARTYN T. LUCKING,
467 Lytham Road,
Blackpool, Lancashire,
December 17.

Abuse claims refuted

From the General Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association
Sir, Your recent series of articles on drug abuse in athletics served to bring one of Britain's most successful international sports into disrepute and indirectly cast a slur on a number of our greatest champions.

The Amateur Athletic Association has documentary proof that testing took place at the England v USA indoor match in 1983, which totally refutes statements made in the article. The figures on random drug-testing were inaccurate and were an attempt to belittle a scheme which, for all its teething problems, was still one of the first in the world, in any sport, serving as a deterrent to would-be drug-takers. Since its introduction, masking agents, such as probenecid, have come to light and the sport is looking at ways to reduce the testing period from a maximum of 48 hours as at present, for the out-of-competition testing scheme.

We strongly refute that we pay

only lip-service to fighting drugs in athletics. International and European level, we have consistently called for tough action and more stringent testing of which we have documentary proof. We have been drug-testing at international matches for over 10 years, long before the international federation made it mandatory. We test right down to club level. We have the most draconian penalties in the world for those caught taking drugs. Under AAA laws, they are banned for life from all competition.

Drug abuse is one of the major problems that our sport faces in the 1990s and Britain will continue to lead the way in the fight against it. Your series of articles did nothing to advance that fight further.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. FARRELL,
General Secretary,
Amateur Athletic Association,
Francis House, Francis Street,
SW1,
December 22.

Price of Woosnam's success

From Mrs Janey Buchan, M.E.P.

Sir, It was interesting if depressing, to see your picture of Ian Woosnam (December 16) and to have such a limited résumé of his year. You could have made reference to his appearance in Sun City, where he won US\$1 million, and touching references and pictures of him with his wife and child. It was a pity that in going to greet his own wife and child he did not continue into South Africa proper and see her counterparts there.

Earlier this year, some 15 people from the UK travelled to Harare to a conference organised by the Bishop Ambrose Reeves Trust on the subject of the torture of children in South Africa. Some 300 brave souls decided that the time had come for them to come and try to tell the world

what was really happening there. I hope never in my life again to hear children tell of such state-organised brutality against them – organised to get at their parents in many ways. I was interested therefore to hear and see Bob Geldof's response on seeing similar children in Mozambique.

That is the true picture of what surrounds – and pays for – Sun City. One million dollars isn't worth it. I hope that Ian Woosnam goes on to great success in the world of golf. I hope too that he now realises that his one million pound prize money was bloodily won and decides not to go back in 1988.

Yours faithfully,
JANEY BUCHAN,
M.E.P. for Glasgow,
72 Peel Street,
Glasgow,
December 17.

RACKETS

Prenn will drop his world title

By William Stephens

John Prenn, the world champion, has decided not to defend his title next year as planned. The position will thus become vacant for challengers.

Prenn has been offered a business opportunity that he has sought for several years – to market and distribute a brand of high quality French leisure and sports-wear in Britain. Prenn, who is the chairman of a clothing manufacturer, believes that the acceptance of this opportunity which could double the size of his business will preclude his devoting the necessary training time to do himself justice in the world championship.

The dates and venues set for the world championship will still apply, but James Male, aged 23, will step up to the prominent position of meeting the winner of an eliminator – by virtue of being the open champion.

The play-off will be between William Roane, 37, the amateur champion, and Neil Smith, 24, the professional champion.

The open champion has precedence because the final is played over the best of seven games, as opposed to five, which pertains to the amateur and professional events.

Boone meets Smith over two legs, both at Queen's Club, on January 30 and February 6. The winner plays Male at the Racquet Club of Chicago on February 27 and at Queen's on March 5.

Prenn, 34, made his decision to withdraw with great reluctance. He said he regarded the world championship as so important that he did not want to devalue it by defending without being able to put in the requisite time for preparation – particularly after having worked so hard for the three world championships in which he has already participated.

To prepare for his challenge to Boone in 1986, Prenn, after losing the world title to him in 1984, trained for seven months involving 25-30 hours per week. "In any sport at a high level, the mental side becomes more and more important – and for me to be mentally tough, I need to be supremely fit," he said.

As to his successor, Prenn tips Male – but would never discount Boone, who is a great competitor.

SWIMMING

Meagher is defeated by Romanian

Orlando, Fla (Reuters) – Stela Pura, of Romania, swam the race of her life to upset Mary Meagher, the world record holder, in the 200 metres open long-course championships here. Pura, aged 16, overcame jet lag to win in 2min 10.64sec. Meagher, aged 23, was well off her record pace of 2:05.96, set in 1981, and touched the wall in 2:10.83 for second place.

"Even now I don't believe I beat her in a major championship," Pura said through an interpreter. "I was a little nervous swimming against her."

Meagher, who hopes to become only the third American woman to be picked for three successive Olympic teams, said she would immediately resume full training for the Seoul Games next year.

Sports Jumbo Crossword

The Times presents a test of your knowledge of sport, and its associated trivia, in this special Christmas crossword – with prizes worthy of the occasion supplied by Whitbread & Co.

For the ten winners there will be a magnificent Whitbread Hamper containing one bottle of Lanson Black Label champagne, one bottle of Laphroaig malt whisky, one bottle of Long John blended whisky, one bottle of Beefeater gin, one bottle of Courvoisier VSOP

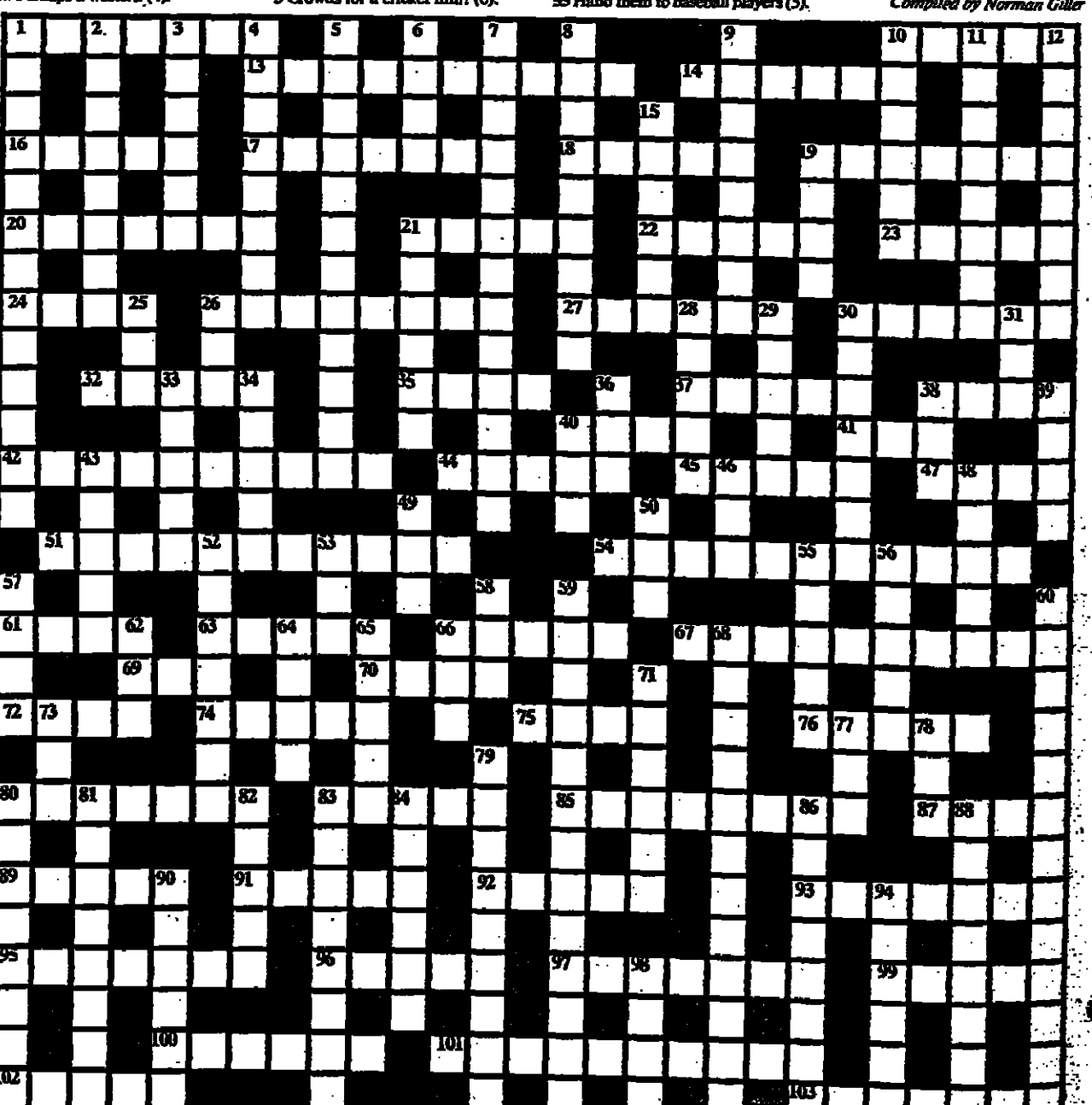


WHITBREAD

brandy, one bottle of Dona Antonia port, two bottles of Villa Antinori Chianti Classico Rosso, two bottles of Calvet Reserve

CLUES TO PUT YOUR SPORTING KNOWLEDGE UNDER SCRUTINY

- ACROSS**
- 1 A sound game? (7)
 - 2 Brisbane ground often the talk of cricket (5)
 - 3 Main event that goes the rounds (5-5)
 - 4 He enjoyed a double boom time in the ring (6)
 - 5 First thing to do if you want to win the race (5)
 - 6 Lost his manager once (7)
 - 7 Mail left by Ben Johnson (5)
 - 8 Top-heavy golf score (4-3)
 - 9 Batman unduly run out? (7)
 - 10 Comedies, possibly of little consequence (5)
 - 11 One in the eye for McGinigan and Eastwood? (5)
 - 12 Grand place for sport (5)
 - 13 Vaulting position perhaps (4)
 - 14 Each is worth one in the pocket (3-5)
 - 15 As long as Law and Dalglish? (6)
 - 16 He blossomed down Under (6)
 - 17 Mobile musician (5)
 - 18 He jumped to a record 10 Olympic gold medals (4)
 - 19 Mixed foursome at a pond (3-2)
 - 20 Just a lad who helped Manchester United win the European Cup (6)
 - 21 High flier of US golf (4)
 - 22 Aintree winner from good stock (3)
 - 23 A general in the 1973 Summer land defence (10)
 - 24 Walker of course! (5)
 - 25 Gatting did it in reverse (5)
 - 26 He made to athletics (4)
 - 27 Rope trick one for a cracking all-rounder (4-7)
 - 28 He has ridden his last French winner (5-5)
 - 29 Perhaps a western (4)
 - 30 Remains to be seen in cricket (5)
 - 31 Bobo, conqueror of Turpin (5)
 - 32 Action news a competitor (10)
 - 33 Dismissed (5)
 - 34 Jackie, an Irish fly-half who had real style (4)
 - 35 A born winner on the courts (4)
 - 36 M.C.C. was born here (5)
 - 37 They're all for a bowler (4)
 - 38 June Croft still does it better than most (5)
 - 39 Peak effort from Qatar (3-4)
 - 40 First post-war champion on the Centre Court (5)
 - 41 Cowen as target (5)
 - 42 Goals of the Biscuit Games (6)
 - 43 They take a marathon pound ing (5)
 - 44 Far East Olympic city before Seoul (5)
 - 45 American footballers may feel it when they move (5)
 - 46 Stormy yachting class? (7)
 - 47 Guller giving a lesson at Augusta? (7)
 - 48 Tessa may carry a spare one (5)
 - 49 Tippet pot for a wheel change (3-4)
 - 50 Roberto, but not one half of a pop duo (5)
 - 51 Run must for a Wimbledon favourite (6)
 - 52 Blank doors for an old race track (10)
 - 53 Dances down by the riverside? (4)
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 - 121 He has ridden his last French winner (5-5)
 - 122 Perhaps a western (4)



Compiled by Norman Giller

Manchester's hat is in Olympic ring

By John Goodbody

Manchester has entered the race against Birmingham to be Britain's candidate city to stage the Olympics in 1996, the centenary of the first modern Games in Athens. Bob Scott, the chairman of the committee which made an unsuccessful bid for the 1992 Games, yesterday wrote to Dick Palmer, the secretary of the British Olympic Association (BOA), to make a formal application to stage the Games. The BOA will decide which city to nominate in March.

Scott, a theatrical entrepreneur, said the bid had deliberately been left until eight days before the deadline of December 31.

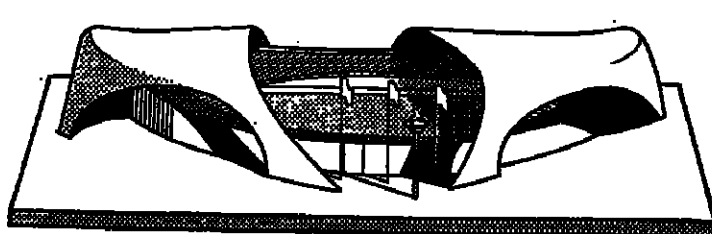
"When I heard of the Birmingham contenders I delayed submitting a formal application because of the possibility that Birmingham would not bid at all. If I had trumpeted Manchester's determination, then this might have spurred Birmingham into bidding," he said.

However, after the vitriolic dispute earlier this month, which had endangered its candidature, Birmingham City Council voted overwhelmingly on Monday to put forward the city as a candidate.

In his letter to Palmer, Scott pointed out that Manchester City Council last week gave its unanimous support to the bid, which he considers is much stronger than in 1985 when the BOA voted that Birmingham should be Britain's candidate.

There are again plans to use the desolate areas alongside Manchester Ship Canal for the venues. The Trafford Urban Development Corporation, which has received £160 million of central government funding, should be able to help with financial support when it is approached next month. "What is absolutely vital is that the facilities erected for the Games are ones that will come into real use after the event," Scott said.

Any main stadium could sub-



Manchester's impression of the proposed main Olympic stadium subsequently be used by Manchester City with the Olympic development possibly including the sale of Maine Road, the football League club's ground. The Olympic Village is planned to be alongside the M63, north-west of Altrincham.

Since the last application, G-Mex Indoor Centre, which can hold between 9,000 and 15,000 people, has been opened on the site of the old Central Station and recently housed the national indoor six-a-side football competition.

Scott was not yet able to give financial details of the bid because they are still to be worked out. Arthur Young, who were the

year later." In 1985 the BOA voting was Birmingham 25, Manchester 5 and London 2.

Palmer said: "The news of Manchester's application comes as a surprise to me. But we are of course delighted to have two cities wanting to stage the Games. It is a tremendous thing for the Olympic movement in Britain."

"We will have to examine the two bids, as we did last time, with fact-finding missions to both cities in the New Year."

Palmer said that no other applications had yet been received. There are not even rumours that London will apply. The BOA has the right not to nominate either city to the IOC but this is highly unlikely to occur in 1988 because Birmingham was put forward unanimously on the second vote in 1985.

The two favourites to stage the 1996 Olympics are Athens, for nostalgically historical reasons, and Toronto, partly because it is in

the same time zone as the United States and will allow a far higher price to be extracted from American television than would be possible from any other likely candidate.

However, Brisbane, which was also unsuccessful for the 1992 Games, may bid again and will use the argument that Oceania has only once staged the event — in Melbourne in 1956. The IOC will make its decision in 1990.

Both Birmingham and Manchester have rightly discovered the importance of bidding and continuing to bid, so as to achieve a higher profile among the 93 IOC members for future candidatures. There are also other advantages.

Although it cost Birmingham £2.5 million to make its unsuccessful attempt in 1986, when it eventually polled eight votes, it is believed to have brought the city £50 million in new investment, including a convention centre, a hotel, a concert hall, and a national indoor sports centre.

League chooses a new team to work out TV deal

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

The Football League has chosen a new team to negotiate the next television contract in 1988. For the first time, significantly, it will not include a single member of the Management Committee, the elected body which is supposed to represent the interests of the 92 clubs.

The League has picked Graham Kelly, the secretary, Trevor Phillips, the commercial director, and Lee Walker, the sales and marketing executive, to act on its behalf. The trio resemble quietly efficient middle players rather than the explosively petulant characters who have reduced past discussions to a childish war of words.

Three years ago the talks were punctuated by, and eventually broke up amid, wild and acrimonious accusations. Ken Bates and Robert Maxwell, two of the more verbose and ebullient figures on the League's committee, felt that they could not negotiate with "the office boys" of the BBC and ITV.

The television companies reacted to that and other withering comments by refusing to cover football for the first half of the season. The two parties stubbornly held on

League is attacked on Maxwell issue

John Poynton, the chairman of Coventry City, last night called for stern disciplinary action to be taken against Robert Maxwell following his "concerted and orchestrated attack" on the Football League management committee (Chris Moore writes).

Poynton said he would be raising the matter with the League on January 19. "I cannot understand how such an attack on the management committee can go unanswered by the authorities," he said. "Are the Football League and Football Association saying that Maxwell is beyond them and they dare not criticise him?"

to their inflexible positions until the third round of the FA Cup came into view. Then, hurriedly, they decided to reach an agreement.

Before the beginning of the 1986-87 season, a new deal was signed by Philip Carter, the League's president. Worth a total of £6.2 million over two years, it provided for the live screening of 14 League games as well as the two semi-finals and final of the Littlewoods Cup.

The television companies

were left to decide how many recorded highlights should be shown, although they guaranteed that the second to the fifth rounds of the Cup would be covered. The contract expires at the end of the current season and preliminary talks have already been held.

The League's negotiators will not necessarily ask for the number of live shows to be reduced. Walker feels that "they have been a good reflection of our game," and points out that the relative attendances, which were disturbingly low when the scheme was first introduced four years ago, have increasingly improved.

But they are concerned about the limited number of recorded highlights, which is sure to be the main point of contention. "The television companies allege that there is a lack of market interest," Kelly said. "Our research shows that the market is not as depressed as the public has been led to believe."

The trio, who will carry the weight of the Football Association's consent, will be looking "not for a quick deal but to look five or 10 years into the future." Walker added that "since we will not be involved in personality clashes or emotive issues, the discussions should be amicable."

Knee injury makes O'Neill bitter

By a Special Correspondent

John O'Neill, the Northern Ireland international defender, will never forgive Wimbledon's forward, John Fashanu, for the incident which could end his career.

O'Neill, aged 29, refused to make a public complaint but there was bitterness in his account of the collision with Fashanu on his Norwich City debut last Friday night which left him with an horrific knee injury.

Speaking from his hospital bed, O'Neill said: "I don't want to apportion blame or anything like that. I know what happened and the other player involved also knows."

"I know it's going to be a long-term job and I haven't set

myself any goals, although I am aiming to play again."

The former Leicester City defender has been inundated with telephone calls from well-wishers, including one from Steve Bruce, the man he was bought to replace.

Meanwhile, Norwich are hoping to arrange a benefit game for O'Neill against Northern Ireland.

Having agreed a financial settlement with Tottenham Hotspur yesterday, David Platt is poised to take over as manager of Leicester City in succession to Bryan Hamilton in time for the Christmas programme of matches. An announcement is expected today.

Centenary matches are saved

The tournament between the leading eight first-division sides that was to have been the culmination of the Football League's centenary celebrations in August, 1988, has been saved — thanks to a compromise over dates made by top clubs and the League in Manchester yesterday.

Chairmen of the top clubs had threatened to withdraw because the dates, on August 6, 10 and 13, clashed with lucrative pre-season tours.

Now the first knock-out round will be played on midweek dates next season, probably on August 29 and September 19, with the final at Villa Park on October 9.

makers after the big four — Ladbrokes, Corals, William Hill and Mecca — expressed their reluctance to take up Curley's offer.

Colin Webster, a Leeds-based on-course bookmaker with a fearsome reputation, originated the bet and laid the odds. In thanking Webster, who stands to lose a small fortune, Curley launched a verbal attack on the major bookmakers.

"Colin was game enough to take bets when the big four were not interested," he said.

Not content with his tidy Christmas bonus, Curley now intends to place a stake of £401,000 at odds of 2-1 if a bookmaker can lay a bet that he will train a further 10 winners in the next three months.

As he admits himself, the elements may be against him. But if he proves lucky again he will collect a staggering £202,000. After yesterday's decision, many will run a mile to avoid the Irishman, but he is waiting for offers.

"If the big four want to take me up on my latest gamble I will be at home and they all have my telephone number," he declared.

Henry Cotton, one of golf's greats, dies at 80



Classic style: Cotton on his way to his third victory in the Open championship, at Muirfield in 1948

Man who broke the barriers

By Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent

There was no-one quite like Henry Cotton, who died on Tuesday at the age of 80. Even in the last few days of his life he was still enthusiastically designing courses and planning for the future. Neither his passion for the game nor his joie-de-vivre waned.

He and his brother Leslie were encouraged to play golf by their father. He arranged for them to receive tuition from J.H. Taylor, a member of the great triumvirate of Braid, Taylor and Vardon, and Taylor immediately suggested that Henry would be the better player because of his concentration and determination.

Henry, however, initially nursed an ambition to play at Lord's rather than St Andrews. However, he beat a hasty retreat from the crease to the first tee following an incident at Alley's, where he was educated. Cotton refused to be cowed by the prefects after protesting that they were wrong to force him to carry all the kit back from one match. He was immediately banned from cricket. The headmaster asked him what he would do when the rest of the boys were playing and he answered succinctly: "I'll play golf."

He never looked back. It was a step into a brave new world, because as a public schoolboy Cotton was compelled to confront all the social barriers. He was arguably the first British gentleman professional in a sport which prior to his arrival mostly relied upon caddies becoming players or the sons of professionals following their fathers into the game. He certainly elevated the playing

standards and lifestyle of the golf professional.

Cotton, however, drove himself to the top with a craving for the good things in life. He had the ability to charm an audience at the Coliseum, where he topped the bill with his golf clinic, and to work the golf ball as if he had it tied to a piece of string.

Determined to improve his game he toured the United States in the late 1920s. Thus Cotton became the best player in the British Isles and he won the first of his three Open championships at Sandwich in 1934. He won again at Carnoustie in 1937, defeating the entire US Ryder Cup team, and at Muirfield in 1948.

Henry Cotton set standards on and off the fairways by

Money motivated him, and he lived a grand life with his wife, Floss, who died on Christmas Day in 1983. At various times they had a fully-staffed home in the country, a suite in the Grosvenor Hotel and a magnificent regency home in London's West End.

Yet Henry Cotton never lost sight of the meaning of life. His private compassion for helping people, especially children, and stray animals, including the dogs which roamed the streets of Portmarnock, in Portugal, close to his beloved Penina, where he built his famous course, is little known by the public.

Henry Cotton set standards on and off the fairways by

which all could measure themselves. His self-discipline for following sensible diets was matched by his keen interest in his own appearance, for he was always impeccably attired.

Then there was Henry's merriment at making the girls blush with one of his risqué jokes, although he could be impatient if you failed to grasp what he was attempting to teach you, especially when using the tyre which became his personal teaching trademark.

Thomas Henry Cotton MBE was, quite simply, admired and loved, and a friend whom we shall miss.

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Curley celebrates after stewards reject appeal

By Ian Stafford

Barney Curley, one of racing's most controversial and colourful characters, landed a £275,000 gamble last night after a meeting with the stewards of the Jockey Club.

The 47-year-old trainer, no stranger to the authoritative corridors of Portman Square, triumphantly waved his familiar brown fedora after his successful wager, in which he backed himself to train 10 winners before the end of the year, was confirmed.

The disciplinary committee of the Jockey Club met to consider an appeal by Keith Stone, the trainer of Saskia's Reprieve, the second-placed horse in the Glasgow Padlocks Selling Hurdle Race at Doncaster on December 12 to Curley's winner, Assultan.

These two horses were involved in a series of collisions on the run to the winning post but, although the Doncaster stewards held their own inquiry, Curley's horse was allowed to keep the race.

The committee heard legal representations on behalf of Stone and the rider of Saskia's Reprieve, Colin Hawkins, but, having also viewed a video recording of the race, dismissed Stone's appeal, al-

though his deposit was returned. "They did not have a case," a smiling Curley said later.

Curley secured initial odds of 2-1, which lengthened to 5-2, on his unprecedented gamble, with a huge stake of £126,000. His target of 10 winners was achieved when Experimenting won at Folkestone on Tuesday.

The bets are spread between several of the smaller book-

makers after the big four — Ladbrokes, Corals, William Hill and Mecca — expressed their reluctance to take up Curley's offer.

Colin Webster, a Leeds-based on-course bookmaker with a fearsome reputation, originated the bet and laid the odds. In thanking Webster, who stands to lose a small fortune, Curley launched a verbal attack on the major bookmakers.

"Colin was game enough to take bets when the big four were not interested," he said.

Not content with his tidy Christmas bonus, Curley now intends to place a stake of £401,000 at odds of 2-1 if a bookmaker can lay a bet that he will train a further 10 winners in the next three months.

As he admits himself, the elements may be against him. But if he proves lucky again he will collect a staggering £202,000. After yesterday's decision, many will run a mile to avoid the Irishman, but he is waiting for offers.

"If the big four want to take me up on my latest gamble I will be at home and they all have my telephone number," he declared.

Indian board to ignore ultimatum

Bombay — The Board of Control for cricket in India has taken a tough line after a virtual revolt by the national team (Javed Akhtar writes).

The captain, Dilip Vengsarkar, may lose his job even before the present series against West Indies is over.

The board has ignored the ultimatum from all 13 members of the Indian team that they would be forced to take "suitable action" if a "show-cause" notice was issued to Vengsarkar for writing articles in newspapers.

Instead, the working committee of the board has endorsed an earlier refusal to permit Vengsarkar to write.

The Indian captain is liable to be barred from playing for India on the grounds that he has violated his contract. Vengsarkar maintains he has not yet been issued with the "show cause" notice.

Historic visit

Sydney (Reuters) — The Ashes, cricket's most famous trophy, may leave England for the first time in 60 years next month. The Melbourne Age newspaper said yesterday organizers of next month's Bicentenary Test between England and Australia in Sydney were confident they could persuade the MCC to release the urn.

Roma decision

Milan (Reuters) — Italian football authorities overturned the result of a Milan-Roma match and awarded a 2-0 victory to Roma yesterday because of hooliganism which almost cost the life of Roma goalkeeper, Franco Tancredi.

New manager

Vienna (AFP) — Former Austrian international, Josef Hickersberger, has been named as manager for both the national and Olympic football teams.

Fighting talk

Promoter Frank Warren has agreed terms for Tony Sibson to challenge Frank Tate for the IBF middleweight title in February and has insisted the contest will go ahead despite the British Boxing Board of Control's decision not to recognize IBF world title bouts.

Cutting down

Only the 17 first-class counties will be allowed access to tickets for future finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy, the Test and County Cricket Board announced yesterday. The tickets will be sold direct to county club members and will not be available at Lord's to the general public.

Title date

Rodney Martin, of Australia, has until next Wednesday to decide whether to defend his British men's under-23 open squash title. Martin is presently in Australia.

Double play

The Wimbledon champion, Pat Cash, will meet 1986 runner-up, Kevin Curren, in a £50,000 winner takes all match at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre on February 13. Scottish snooker player Stephen Hendry faces Cliff Thorburn, of Canada, at the same venue on January 22.

Reeve chase

Northamptonshire, Kent and Hampshire are leading the chase for Sussex all-rounder, Dermot Reeve, when his contract runs out.

Tennis votes

New York (AP) — John McEnroe and Tim Mayotte are among the eight tennis players nominated to compete for the United States in the 1988 Olympics, the US Tennis Association announced yesterday.

Insider's view of Haseeb on tour

The troubles which plagued Mike Gatting, the England captain, and his team on the recent cricket tour of Pakistan have prompted ANTHONY SMITH, baggage master to the Pakistan team on last summer's tour of England, to write to The Times

Listening to England's captain saying his visit to Pakistan and his recent experience with one of their most infamous umpires was something he would very much like to forget and that he would certainly not be touring the country again, my sympathies go out to him, especially after my own treatment during the summer.

As baggage-master to the visiting Pakistan touring team, no one in England had more day-to-day personal contact with both the players and the management than myself, and I can honestly say that having had 16 years of looking after nearly every international team to tour here, I had never experienced anything quite like it before.

The captain, Imran Khan, and his highly-talented and very successful team excelled themselves, and it was a great privilege for me to be associated with Pakistan winning their first Test series in this country, but it was their controversial manager who left a lot to be desired, and who, in my opinion, has been largely responsible for our lovely game of cricket being dragged through the mire.

As was stated in The Times on August 14, Mr Haseeb Ahsan tried to order me about like a "hired servant", often ranting and raving in front of other people, so much so that I had embarrassed players apologizing for his out-of-order antics.

Then there were several instances of being told, not asked, as is usually the case, of making extra, unreasonably long journeys by road, way outside the normal terms of my contract.

On top of this, we had the whole trip during the tour seemingly being run on a shoestring, with no official scorer or physiotherapist accompanying the team. The

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manager laid a trail of controversy which culminated, in the final Test at the Oval, with the abuse of umpire David Constant, whom he called a "disgraceful person".

There is little doubt in my mind that Mr Ahsan came to these shores this year determined to be as big a mischief-maker as was possible, and that this unfortunate atmosphere and general ill-feeling will continue in Pakistan cricket while this erratic man is allowed to remain at the helm of their affairs. He came here with a chip on his shoulder which he acquired in 1962 when he was sent home because of a suspect bowling action.

After having to endure the tantrums of Haseeb for 15 weeks, you can imagine my utter relief and joy in joining up with Clive Lloyd and Allan Border, respectively the manager and captain of the Rest of the World team, for three of the most happy and exciting weeks of my cricketing experience, something that will remain with me for the rest of my life.

My advice to the Pakistan Board of Control is to get rid of their present so-called supreme as soon as possible and to appoint someone like Imran Khan, if available, on a long-term contract as team manager, before more irreparable damage is done to this most beautiful game of ours.

Australia bans the crewman who spoke up

Sydney — Andrew Cape, the Australian crewman whose revelations to The Times led to the disqualification of I-Funkit, the Austrian team yacht, from the Champagne Mumm's Admiral's Cup, has been banned from racing in Australian waters for seven months by the Australian Yachting Federation (a Special Correspondent writes).

An AYC committee applied the same penalties given to Cape and another Australian, Greg Prescott, earlier this year by Britain's Royal Yachting Association. Cape, who argued that, but for his exposure of the illegal use of water ballast on the yacht, the scandal would never have been made public, said last night: "I wish now I had just kept my mouth shut."